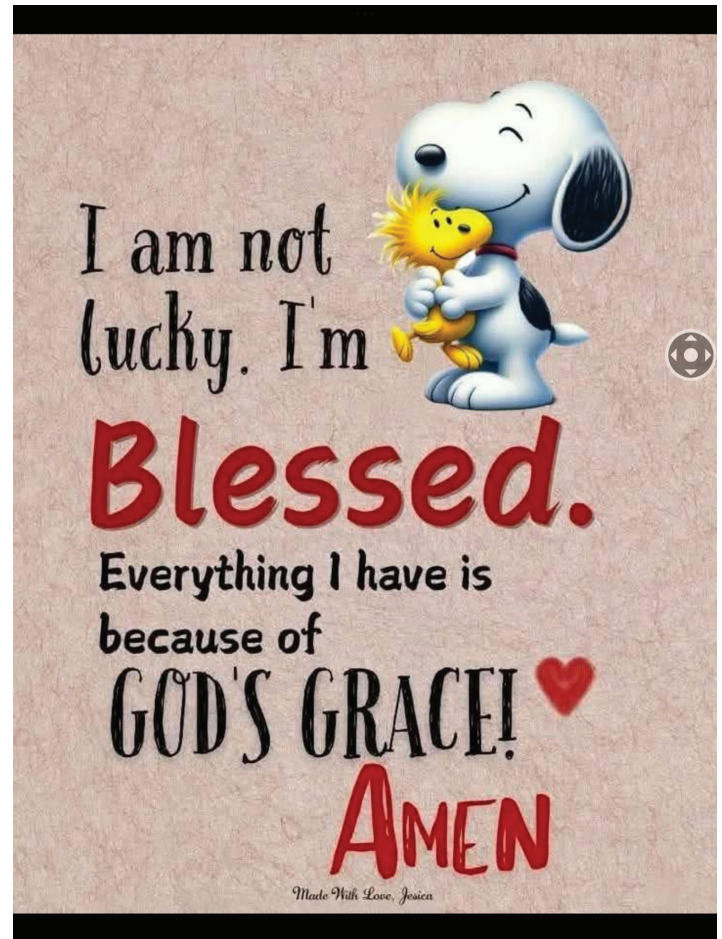


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Friday

Senior Menu: Baked turkey crunch, 7 layer salad, peaches, whole wheat bread.

Saturday

Groton Legion 30th Anniversary

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

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1440

Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.

New Gaza Plan

Israel intends to take military control over the entire Gaza Strip, according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who made the statement in an interview yesterday. Netanyahu said Israel aims to eliminate Hamas and secure the area but has no plans to permanently govern there. The country will instead seek to transfer authority to Arab forces; Netanyahu did not share further details of the plan.

The statement comes amid stalled ceasefire talks with Hamas and international criticism over the humanitarian situation in Gaza. It also comes amid internal Israeli disagreement, including concerns from officials and families of hostages held by Hamas. At least 20 of the estimated 50 remaining hostages are thought to be still alive.

Israel controls about 75% of Gaza, where roughly 2 million Palestinians have been displaced, and at least 500,000 face famine-like conditions. Canada and the UK have vowed to recognize Palestinian statehood in September if the war does not end, while France has pledged recognition unconditionally.

France's Aude Wildfire

France contained its largest wildfire since 1949 yesterday, after three days battling the blaze. The wildfire in the southern Aude region scorched more than 62 square miles—an area roughly one and a half times the size of Paris.

Authorities are still investigating the cause of the fire, which killed at least one person, injured over a dozen others, and forced about 2,000 to evacuate. Dozens of homes and vehicles have been destroyed. Officials blamed climate change for the heightened wildfire risk. Strong winds, dry soil, and a recent drought have spread the fire. More than 2,100 firefighters worked to contain the blaze alongside several water bomber planes.

The wildfire comes weeks after a parliamentary report warned France's fleet of 60 firefighting aircraft is aging and limited. The European Commission, which invested in new aircraft and satellite technology, offered its assistance early Thursday.

Americans' Ultraprocessed Diets

Ultraprocessed foods make up the majority (55%) of Americans' caloric intake, according to a study released yesterday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While the agency has surveyed Americans' nutrition since the 1960s, the latest report is the first to analyze ultraprocessed food consumption.

The term "ultraprocessed foods" was coined in 2009 and has been linked to a variety of health problems, including obesity, Type 2 diabetes, and heart disease. There is no universally accepted definition; the report uses a Brazilian framework, describing "ultraprocessed" as industrial creations with few, if any, whole foods. The report found sandwiches—including burgers, hot dogs, and PB&Js—are Americans' top source, followed by baked goods, salty snacks, and sugary drinks.

Kids and people from lower-income brackets consume especially high levels of ultraprocessed foods, though rates have declined slightly over the past decade.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

NFL preseason kicks off in earnest, with all 32 teams playing through the weekend; see complete pre-season Week 1 preview.

Eddie Palmieri, eight-time Grammy-winning Latin music legend, dies at 88; his 1965 hit "Azúcar Pa' Ti" was inducted into the US Library of Congress.

Paramount and Skydance close on \$8.4B merger, more than a year after initial announcement; new company is named "Paramount, a Skydance Corporation".

Science & Technology

OpenAI releases GPT-5, the latest version of its flagship large language model, to free and paying subscribers; new model is heavily focused on advanced reasoning and carrying out tasks for users.

Astronomers find evidence for a planet orbiting Alpha Centauri A; at about 4.4 light years away, the Alpha Centauri system is the closet sun-like star to Earth.

How we capture images from space (More, w/video)

Argentina's Perito Moreno glacier is losing thickness via melting at about 18 feet per year, up from about a foot per year between 2000 and 2019, and may be in irreversible decline; site draws 700,000 visitors per year.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed (S&P 500 -0.1%, Dow -0.5%, Nasdaq +0.4%).

President Donald Trump to nominate top economic aide Stephen Miran to Federal Reserve board to temporarily fill vacancy.

President Donald Trump signs executive order allowing alternative assets like cryptocurrencies, private equity, and real estate into 401(k) plans and other defined-contribution retirement savings plans.

US continuing jobless claims rise to 1.97 million in the week ending July 26, the highest level since November 2021.

Politics & World Affairs

New US import tariffs kick in for more than 60 countries and the EU, ranging from 10% to 50%, as trading partners attempt to negotiate better deals.

Texas Senate committee votes 6-1 to advance Republican-friendly House map; Republicans say the FBI has agreed to help locate Texas Democrats who left the state to block the quorum needed to pass legislation.

Federal judge temporarily blocks further construction at "Alligator Alcatraz" immigration detention center in Florida.

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The youth had a splash of a time with the Groton Firemen spraying them down. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Tina and Jeslyn Kosel had the Angel Tree Walking Tacos and Rummage sale at the Family Fun Fest held in downtown Groton Thursday night. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

2025 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Vehicle Count – Through Day Six

STURGIS, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) will provide daily traffic counts at nine locations for vehicles entering Sturgis for the 85th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally which runs from Aug. 1-10, 2025. The traffic counts to date for the nine locations entering Sturgis for the 2025 Rally are as follows:

Friday, Aug. 1, 2025: 56,000 vehicles entered
Up 8.2% from the previous five-year average

Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025: 62,500 vehicles entered
Up 12.5% from the previous five-year average

Sunday, Aug. 3, 2025: 60,495 vehicles entered
Up 2.4% from the previous five-year average

Monday, Aug. 4, 2025: 68,906 vehicles entered
Up 19% from the previous five-year average

Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025: 63,863 vehicles entered
Up 13.1% from the previous five-year average

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2025: 59,414 vehicles entered
Up 9.7% from the previous five-year average

2025 Total to Date (6-days): 371,178 Vehicles (Up 10.8%)
Previous Five-Year Average (2020-2024) 6-day total to date: 334,934 Vehicles

Once compiled, a full report (including traffic counts across the greater Black Hills area) will be available on the SDDOT website at <https://dot.sd.gov/transportation/highways/traffic-data/> during the week of Aug. 18, 2025.

To find additional information related to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally such as reduced speed limit areas, temporary traffic signal locations, frequently asked questions, and more, please visit: <https://dot.sd.gov/travelers/travelers/sturgis-rally-travel-information-faq>.

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Highway Patrol Sturgis Rally Daily Information

Compiled from 6 a.m. Saturday, August 2, 2025, to 6 a.m. Thursday, August 7, 2025

Item	Sturgis	Rapid City District	District Total	Last Year to Date
DUI Arrests	71	16	87	100
Misd Drug Arrests	133	36	169	198
Felony Drug Arrests	56	11	67	116
Total Citations	596	428	1,024	992
Total Warnings	2,203	860	3,063	2,940
Cash Seized	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$11,094.00
Vehicles Seized	0	0	0	0
For Drug Poss.	0	0	0	0
For Serial No.	0	0	0	0
Non-Injury Accidents	15	5	20	26
Injury Accidents	19	31	50	26
Fatal Accidents	0	2	2	3
# of Fatalities	0	2	2	3

Fatal Crashes:
None

Injury Crashes:

At 9:09 a.m. Wednesday, Vanocker Canyon Road, mile marker 12: A 2000 Harley Davidson motorcycle (Unit 1) was southbound on Vanocker Canyon Rd near MM 12. Unit 1 failed to negotiate a curve and went off the road to the right and went down the steep embankment where the motorcycle and driver came to a final rest. The driver of the motorcycle was wearing a helmet. He was transported to Rapid City Monument Hospital via LifeFlight with serious non-life-threatening injuries.

At 11:22 a.m. Wednesday, Interstate 90, mile marker 149: A 2015 Harley Davidson motorcycle (Unit 1) was traveling west on Interstate 90 near MM 149. The driver of Unit 1 failed to navigate the curve and entered the median. The driver became separated from the motorcycle and both came to final rest in the median. The driver, who was wearing a helmet, received serious, non-life-threatening injuries and was transported by Black Hills LifeFlight to Monument Health in Rapid City.

At 1:58 p.m. Wednesday, South Dakota Highway 44, mile marker 40: A 2006 GMC Sierra (Unit 1) was driving eastbound on SD 44 near MM 40 when the driver passed out due to a medical issue. Unit 1 drifted over the center line and into the path of a 2023 Harley Davidson motorcycle (Unit 2) that was driving westbound in the same location. The driver of Unit 2 saw Unit 1 coming toward him and swerved toward the right shoulder of the road to avoid the crash. Unit 1 hit the rear driver's side saddle bag causing Unit 2 to spin around numerous times. The driver and passenger of Unit 2 suffered serious, non-life-threatening injuries. Both were wearing helmets. They were transported to Monument Health in Rapid City. The driver of Unit 1 and a passenger were both wearing seatbelts and the driver was transported to Monument Health in Rapid City for evaluation.

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At 2:15 p.m. Wednesday, US Highway 16/385, mile marker 37: A 2003 Harley Davidson motorcycle (Unit 1) was traveling eastbound on US 16 385 near MM 37. To avoid rear ending another vehicle, Unit 1 entered the south ditch and slid for several feet before rolling. The driver was separated from the vehicle. Unit 1's passenger was pinned under the vehicle. Both subjects were transported to Monument Health in Rapid City for serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of Unit 1 was not wearing a helmet, but the passenger was wearing a helmet.

At 3:17 p.m. Wednesday, US Highway 16A, mile marker 54: A 2008 Harley Davidson motorcycle (Unit 1) approached a curve at approximately MM 54 on US 16A. Unit 1 failed to negotiate the curve and struck the guardrail. The driver, who was wearing a helmet, was transported to Monument Health in Rapid city for serious but non-life threatening injuries.

At 4:39 p.m. Wednesday, US Highway 385, mile marker 95: A 2018 Harley Davidson motorcycle (Unit 1) was traveling westbound on US 385. Unit 1 leaned too far in a curve and hit its exhaust pipe, causing the motorcycle's back tire to lift off the ground. Unit 1 lost control and hit the guardrail. Unit 1's driver and passenger separated from the motorcycle. The driver was not wearing a helmet and sustained minor injuries. The passenger was wearing a helmet and sustained minor injuries.

At 5:38 p.m. Wednesday, US Highway 85, mile marker 14: A 1995 Harley Davidson motorcycle (Unit 1) was traveling northbound on US 85 near mile marker 14. Unit 1 was attempting to stop and pull over with the group he was traveling with. As Unit 1 was braking, it struck soft road filler causing it to lose traction. When Unit 1 returned to dry pavement the brakes locked up. The driver became separated from the motorcycle and slid on the highway. The driver was not wearing a helmet and sustained serious non-life-threatening injuries. He was transported to Lead-Deadwood Monument Health.

At 6:03 p.m. Wednesday, Interstate I-190 and Interstate 90: A 2001 Harley Davidson motorcycle (Unit 1) was traveling southbound on Interstate I-190 near its intersection with Interstate 90. The driver had a medical emergency and failed to negotiate the curve. The driver ran off the road to the right, struck a DOT sign, and laid his bike on its side. The driver was not wearing a helmet and sustained a minor injury to his head.

At 6:37 p.m. Wednesday, Norris Peak Road and Hat Mountain Drive: A 2016 Harley Davidson motorcycle (Unit 1) was traveling northbound on Norris Peak Road near its intersection with Hat Mountain Drive. Unit 1 hit an uneven patch of road and laid his bike down. The operator separated from the motorcycle, received serious non-life-threatening injuries, and was transported to Monument Health in Rapid City. The driver was wearing a helmet.

All information released so far is only preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

Why South Dakota Didn't Have a Measles Outbreak

By Secretary Melissa Magstadt

PIERRE, SD – It's been four weeks since our last positive measles case, and South Dakota has done remarkably well in protecting its citizens from the kinds of outbreaks that have hit other states much harder. What made the difference in South Dakota?

Several key strategies contributed to our rapid and effective response. Months ago, and long before a measles case was confirmed in South Dakota, the Department of Health (DOH) was already closely monitoring outbreaks in other states, such as Texas, where clusters of counties were struggling. We studied those areas to identify similar communities in South Dakota that might also be at risk. As a result, we identified 12 counties as high priority and launched targeted awareness, education, and monitoring efforts.

Then we prepared. We developed clinical guidelines early for identifying, testing, and treating measles cases, and we were ready to share them the moment we needed to. These guidelines were quickly distributed across the state. We hosted healthcare provider webinars and posted up-to-date clinical resources on our website. We focused on clinics in communities with lower vaccination rates to help raise awareness and increase immunization efforts. We also activated our network of partners early. Healthcare providers and health systems stepped up right away to support our efforts, helping to identify and isolate cases quickly. Nurses visited small communities to educate individuals and families about measles and how they can stay protected and safe.

The Public Health Laboratory in Pierre increased testing capacity, ensuring quick and accurate testing even during holidays. Over 100 lab specimens were tested. Meanwhile, Disease Intervention Specialists worked around the clock to identify potential cases and notify over 400 individual contacts, ensuring they were aware and immunized.

Most importantly, we mobilized the people of South Dakota. Public awareness proved to be one of our most effective tools. The DOH reviewed hundreds of vaccination records for concerned residents and prioritized immunizations for those who needed them most.

We also made special efforts to reach those who may not receive messages through traditional communication channels like social media or the news media. We specifically targeted communities through mailings and phone calls to ensure our outreach efforts empowered families to take action.

Why did South Dakota do so well? Because we were ready. We made access to the measles vaccine easy. We heard from individuals and families who decided to get vaccinated right away and from others who changed their minds and chose to protect themselves and their children against measles. We mobilized early, prioritized education and access, and launched a coordinated campaign in collaboration with our partners. Through it all, we informed and engaged the people of South Dakota. We removed barriers for those facing healthcare access challenges by offering 43 different pop-up immunization clinics in nearly every county in across the state.

South Dakota meets public health threats head-on with resources, collaboration, and a strong commitment to keeping our state healthy. The results speak for themselves: a contained outbreak, increased public awareness, and over 1,200 more measles vaccinations administered statewide this year compared to last.

At the heart of the Department of Health's mission is a simple goal: to protect and improve the health of all South Dakotans. The department is entrusted with the vital task of promoting wellness, preventing disease, and ensuring access to quality healthcare for all South Dakotans. We achieved that goal here. I am so proud of our team and the dedicated healthcare professionals across the state!

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Saturday, Aug. 9th



**Come and help us celebrate the
“30th Anniversary of the
Groton Legion Lounge and Hall”**

5-7 p.m.

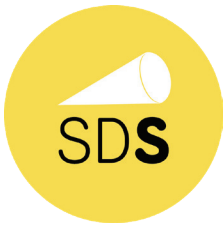
**free supper
until gone**

(Cody Keller's famous BBQ!)



9 p.m.

*Music on the patio with
Lizzy Hofer*



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Company's sudden shutdown closes four newspapers in eastern South Dakota

Employees hoping to find ways to salvage local news in Huron, Brookings, Flandreau and Redfield

BY: JOHN HULT - AUGUST 7, 2025 2:56 PM

Four communities in South Dakota abruptly lost their newspapers this week, leaving more than 40,000 people without a local source of print news — at least in the near term.

Employees at the Huron Plainsman, Redfield Press, Brookings Register and Moody County Enterprise, which served the city of Flandreau, learned this week that operations would cease immediately.

"The decision was not made lightly," read a letter from the papers' Illinois-based parent company, News Media Corp. "Over the past months and years, we have explored every possible avenue to sustain our operations and preserve our team."

An attempt to sell the company failed, the letter says, leaving the company in a financial position "where continuing business is no longer feasible."

Last year, the company announced it would be purchased by Carpenter Media Group, which specializes in rural papers.

News Media Corp. will make "reasonable efforts" to deliver final paychecks, the letter says. Health insurance benefits "will be terminated effective August 6, 2025," it says, referencing the day the letters were delivered.

The company's website says it owns 31 newspapers across Arizona, Illinois, South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming, as well as six "shoppers," which are freely distributed advertising publications. One such shopper, the Payday, was printed for Huron, on the same printing press used for the Plainsman and the Redfield Press.

An email to the company's CEO, J.J. Tompkins, went unanswered. A message to the company's informational email address came back undeliverable. A message to Carpenter Media Group on the hoped-for merger was not returned.

'Gut-punch' for journalism

The Wednesday announcements amount to "a real gut punch for community journalism in South Dakota," according to South Dakota NewsMedia Association Executive Director Dave Bordewyk.

"I feel bad about it, I'm sad about it, and I'm mad about it," said Bordewyk, who lives in Brookings where the association is based.

Bordewyk said his immediate concerns are for the employees of the publications, particularly given the immediate loss of health insurance. Since his arrival as executive director in 1995, Bordewyk said he's known of a few instances when a small-town paper announced an instant end to operations, but he can't recall any immediate shutdown across multiple communities at once.

The suddenness also has implications for the communities served by the papers.

"It's revenue, expenses, bottom lines, I get that," said Bordewyk, who said around 40 South Dakota papers have closed since the mid-1990s, "but also in the newspapers, there's a trust relationship with your community."

"That trust has been broken here, and my hope is it can be restored," Bordewyk said.

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Legal notice issues

Ope Niemeyer, the Brookings mayor, lamented the closure notice. He said he understands that newspapers have faced challenges in the digital era, but that he wouldn't expect a community the size of Brookings — with a population of nearly 25,000 — to lose a printed paper.

It's especially difficult for Brookings, he said, because a local radio station laid off its news staff less than a year ago. Without the Register, Niemeyer wonders who will cover local news.

"It's pretty much devastating for our community," Niemeyer said.

The closures could create immediate legal problems for government entities like Niemeyer's, as well.

Under state law, governments must designate an official legal newspaper for the publication of meeting minutes, ordinance changes, bids for goods and services and more, often on specific timelines.

State law expects local governments to find a paper within their county before looking outside of it. There are three weekly newspapers in Brookings County. The other counties affected by the closures have none.

Niemeyer said he's already in conversations on how the city will handle its notices. If it comes down to working with a weekly paper, he said, that could slow down the speed with which the city council can make decisions that require a certain number of days between the publication of a notice and a final decision.

"Most of the local communities only publish once a week, so we'd have to work around that," Niemeyer said.

In an email to South Dakota Searchlight, Huron School District Superintendent Kraig Steinhoff said he was "saddened" to hear the news about the Plainsman. The paper's coverage of students and sporting events in the district "celebrated the achievements of children and recognized the accomplishments of Huron School District employees, while also accurately reporting on the district's business through bi-monthly board meeting updates."

The school board voted to retain the Plainsman's designation as its legal newspaper last month.

"Over the years, I have heard from many people who lost their local newspapers comment on how fortunate Huron was to have a daily publication," Steinhoff wrote. "It often seems that we don't appreciate what we have until it is gone."

Future for local news

Steinhoff also said he hopes "another company will take over the paper," but that the district will have to learn to live without it if that doesn't happen.

Benjamin Chase, the editor for the Plainsman, said Thursday that he and the publisher have already fielded calls from a handful of potential business partners who hope to keep the 140-year-old paper alive.

The "how, what and when" are still "being worked out," Chase said, but "there were people who reached out right away."

In a lengthy post on Facebook, Chase said his community of 14,500 needs a local news source. He also said he understands why people want to know about refunds on their subscriptions — his 90-year-old grandmother re-upped her annual subscription last week — but his thoughts are with the employees of the newsroom and printing shop, who didn't know as of Thursday morning if they'd get their next paycheck.

The next scheduled payday is Friday, two days after the letters arrived.

"Huron's paper now has more than a dozen employees who are now wondering how they will feed their families the rest of THIS month," Chase wrote on Facebook.

Chase said he's spoken with employees about the possibility of signing up for Medicaid for health insurance.

Josh Linehan, editor of the Brookings Register, wrote a post for the Register's Facebook page on Thursday afternoon about the closure.

Register employees, he said, did not get a letter on the closure. They only found out officially at 1 p.m. Thursday, and heard about it from the Plainsman's publisher.

"It's no secret that it's tough times out there for all print media, and we're no exception," Linehan wrote

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on Facebook. "But make no mistake — we're closed for now as a result of poor corporate management."

Like Chase, Linehan told South Dakota Searchlight he's "taking meetings" on the future of the newspaper. He believes the community can and would support a paper that's been published under the Register banner since 1890.

"There's absolutely no reason there's not a newspaper here," Linehan said.

Other options for readers, governments

Bordewyk said he's fielded calls from local government officials asking about how to manage the situation with legal notices. He's been telling them to "hold tight" and see if the communities involved can find ways to keep their print products alive.

There are precedents for communities stepping in. In Kingsbury County, the publisher ran a story in 2020 saying he would have to shut down two weekly papers without a buyer. The local economic development corporations purchased the business and launched a new paper with the help of volunteers. A similar situation played out in Winner last year.

Chase is hopeful that Huron will find a way to keep the local news flowing. The paper predates statehood, and at one point published as many as three editions a day.

In spite of the long-term trend of financial difficulties for local newspapers, some new operations have popped up in South Dakota cities.

Troy McQuillen of Aberdeen publishes two startup newspapers, the Aberdeen Insider and Watertown Current. Both were launched to fill a void left by staffing cuts at local papers owned in each city by the nationwide Gannett newspaper chain.

"Here in Aberdeen the public has been incredibly supportive in terms of subscriptions, as have advertisers," McQuillen said, adding that the Watertown paper, launched after the Insider, is starting to gain traction.

On Thursday, McQuillen took a call from the city of Redfield and agreed to begin printing its legal announcements in Aberdeen. He's also had conversations about the possibility of stepping in to fill the void in the other impacted cities.

Meanwhile, The Dakota Scout, a three-year-old newspaper based in Sioux Falls, published a story Thursday afternoon saying it now plans to distribute its product in Brookings. The paper already distributes in Flandreau, and "will now include Brookings as part of its coverage area."

John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

Ethics watchdog says Thune's vote to confirm his son-in-law's nomination was a conflict of interest

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - AUGUST 7, 2025 9:22 AM

A leader of a government watchdog group says U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-South Dakota, had a conflict of interest when he voted to approve his son-in-law's nomination to a federal job.

Thune voted yes Saturday on the confirmation of Luke Lindberg as undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Lindberg is married to one of Thune's daughters, Brittany Thune Lindberg.

Donald Sherman, executive director and chief counsel at Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, said U.S. Senate rules don't overtly bar senators from voting on the confirmation of a family member. But the rules do bar members of Congress from using their office in a way that benefits family members.

"I don't think you need to be an ethics expert to understand that there's a conflict of interest here," Sherman said.

Thune's immediate predecessor as Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, also a Republican, faced a

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similar situation in 2017 when his wife, Elaine Chao, was nominated to lead the Department of Transportation. After initially saying he would not recuse himself from Chao's confirmation vote, McConnell ultimately voted "present."

Sherman said Thune's vote would not have made the difference on Lindberg's nomination — the vote was 78-17 in favor — and there was no reason not to follow McConnell's example. Sherman said Thune's actions set a bad precedent.

"It emboldens other people to bend the rules for themselves," Sherman said.

Lindberg served as chief of staff and chief strategy officer at the Export-Import Bank during the prior Trump administration, and later helped launch and lead South Dakota Trade, a public-private partnership in the state aimed at expanding export opportunities for businesses.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins praised Lindberg in a news release about his confirmation.

"We are thrilled to have Luke join our team and I have full faith that his drive and deep experience will ensure we not only defend our producers, but also open new doors to global trade," Rollins said.

Thune's office did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

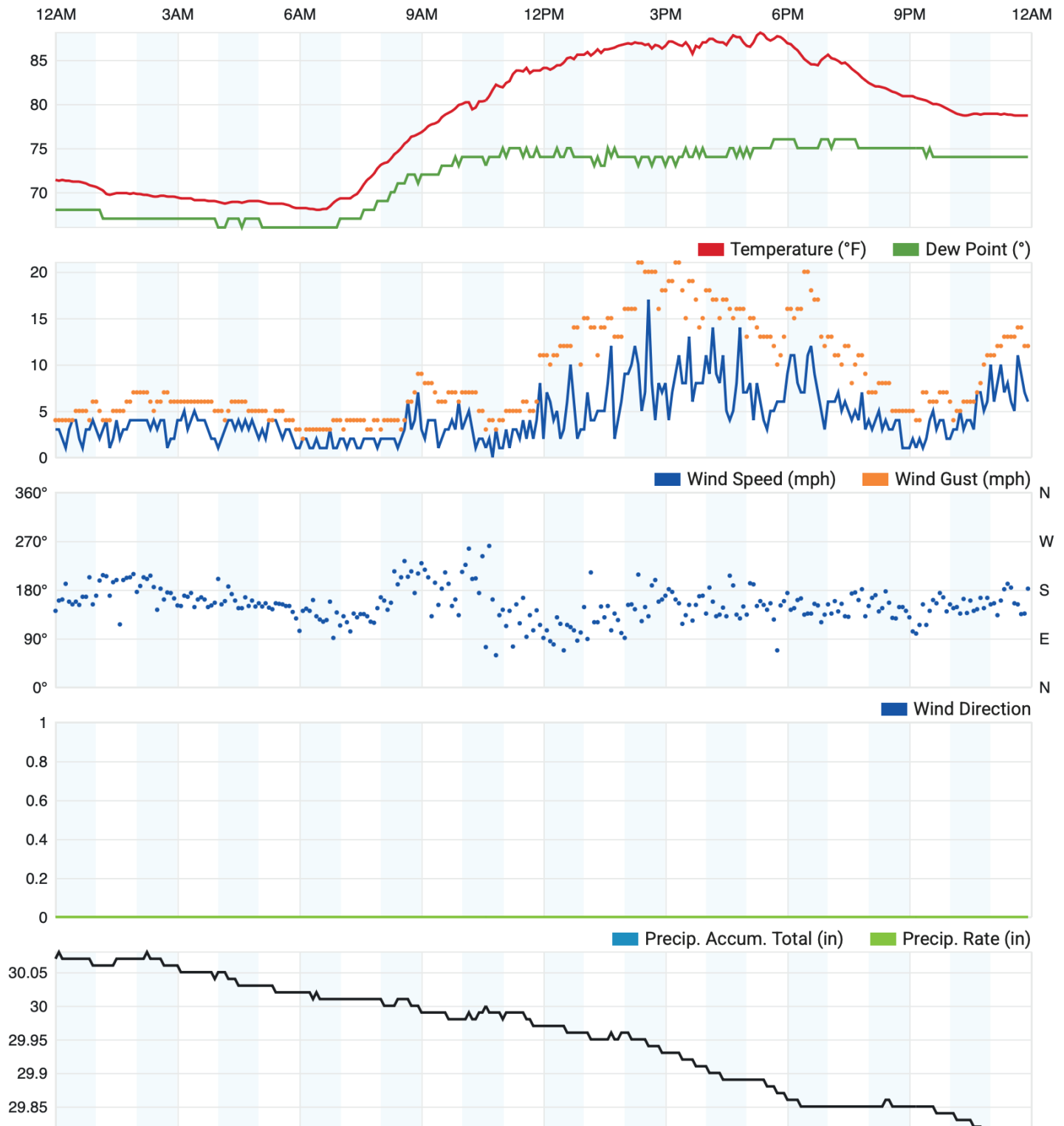
Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

August 7, 2025



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Today



moderate rain

88°F / 64°F

sunrise: 06:25 **sunset:** 20:50

humidity: 48% **wind:** 17mph **dew point:** 65°F **pressure:** 1001mb

chance of precipitation: 100% **cloud cover:** 93%



Saturday



clear sky

86°F / 57°F

sunrise: 06:26 **sunset:** 20:49

humidity: 33% **wind:** 16mph **dew point:** 53°F **pressure:** 1010mb

chance of precipitation: 80% **cloud cover:** 0%



Sunday



broken clouds

82°F / 63°F

sunrise: 06:27 **sunset:** 20:48

humidity: 37% **wind:** 11mph **dew point:** 54°F **pressure:** 1013mb

chance of precipitation: 0% **cloud cover:** 56%



Monday



scattered clouds

90°F / 63°F

sunrise: 06:28 **sunset:** 20:46

humidity: 33% **wind:** 15mph **dew point:** 57°F **pressure:** 1012mb

chance of precipitation: 0% **cloud cover:** 25%



Tuesday



scattered clouds

90°F / 64°F

sunrise: 06:29 **sunset:** 20:45

humidity: 35% **wind:** 14mph **dew point:** 58°F **pressure:** 1010mb

chance of precipitation: 0% **cloud cover:** 30%



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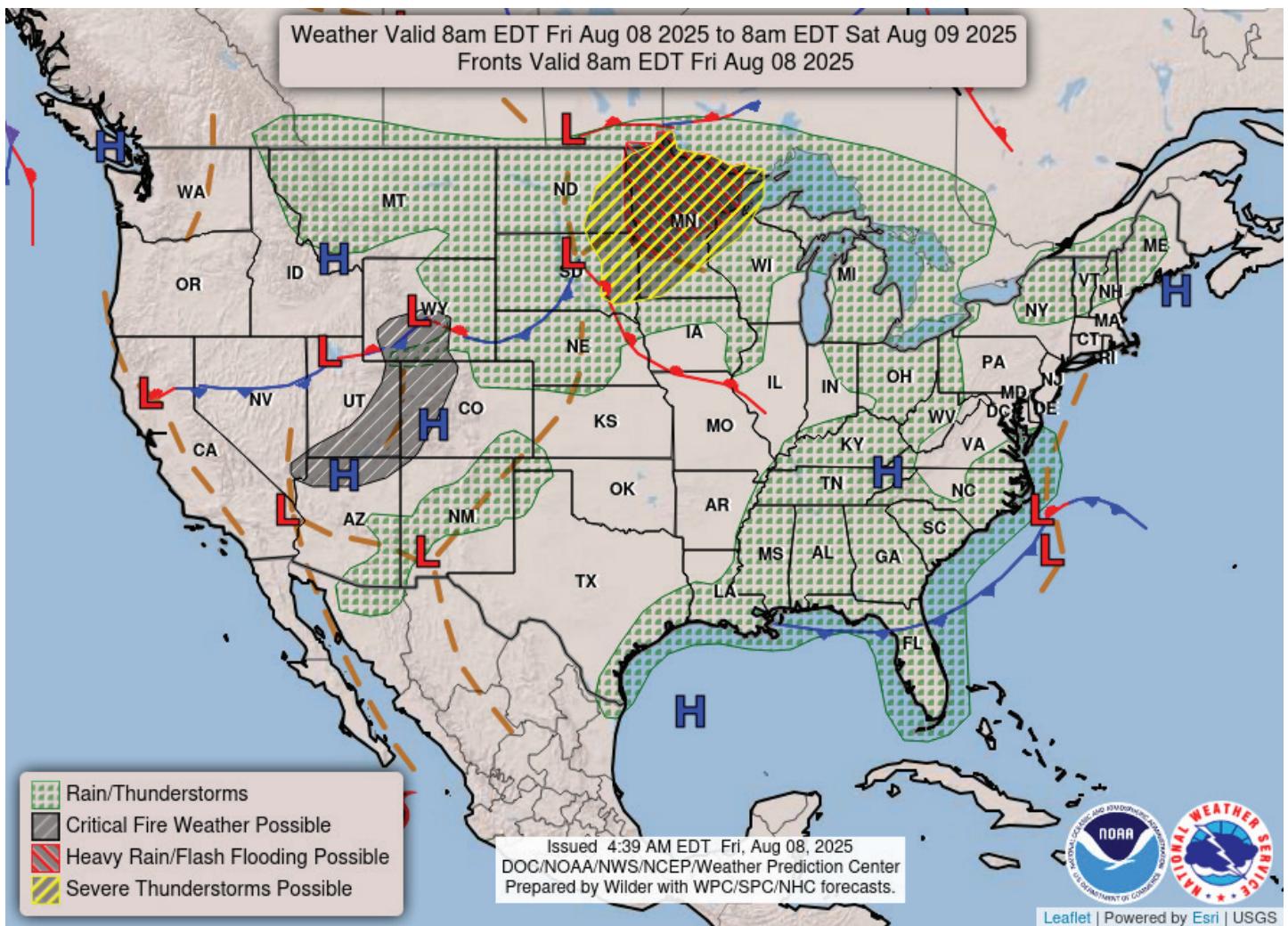
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 88 °F at 5:21 PM
Heat Index: 100 °F at 5:30 PM
Low Temp: 68 °F at 6:24 AM
Wind: 21 mph at 2:17 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 28 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 108 in 1936
Record Low: 42 in 1939
Average High: 84
Average Low: 58
Average Precip in August.: 0.58
Precip to date in August: 1.15
Average Precip to date: 14.68
Precip Year to Date: 16.21
Sunset Tonight: 88:52:04 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:25:06 am



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Today in Weather History

August 8, 2010: Thunderstorms produced damaging winds and flash flooding from heavy rain along and near the Missouri River in southeast South Dakota during the late afternoon. Bon Homme and Yankton Counties were among the hardest hit areas. Avon in Bon Homme County, thunderstorm winds caused widespread damage to trees and power lines. The tree damage included large trees uprooted or blown down, and falling trees destroyed at least two houses. The damage to power lines caused a power outage over the town which lasted about 5 hours. The winds also destroyed a large shed and damaged a camper parked in the shed. In Tyndall, thunderstorm winds of 70 mph caused tree damage, including large trees blown down. The winds also blew down power lines, damaged several small sheds, and tore shingles off roofs. Thunderstorm winds also ripped through Yankton County. Near Napa, winds overturned several campers and caused widespread tree damage, including large trees blown down at a Lewis and Clark Lake campground.

1874: Swarms of Rocky Mountain locust invaded Denver, Colorado. Millions were seen cruising through the air. The insects were picked up by a thunderstorm gust front and carried into the city. The grasshoppers ravaged crops in surrounding counties for the last month. Click [HERE](#) for more information about The Year of the Locust, 1874.

1878 - The temperature at Denver, CO, soars to an all-time record high of 105 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1881 - A cloudburst and flash flood occurred at Central Springs, CO, and Idaho Springs, CO. (David Ludlum)

1882 - An August snowstorm was reported by a ship on Lake Michigan. A thick cloud reportedly burst on the decks covering them with snow and slush six inches deep. Snow showers were observed at shore points that day. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1983 - The temperature at Big Horn Basin, WY, reached 115 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorm rains in eastern Nebraska sent the Wahoo River and Ithica River above flood stage. Thunderstorm rains in western Iowa sent the Nishnabotna River over flood stage. Up to seven inches of rain deluged the Council Bluffs area Friday evening and Saturday morning. Thunderstorms produced 4.4 inches of rain in three hours Friday evening, along with golf ball size hail. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a slow moving cold front produced severe weather from central Kansas to southern Wisconsin late in the day. Thunderstorms in Iowa produced hail three inches in diameter at Vinton, and produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Donohue and near Mount Pleasant. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A total of ninety-nine cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Alpena MI with a reading of 40 degrees. Mount Mitchell NC was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 35 degrees. Early evening thunderstorms around Las Vegas NV produced wind gusts to 116 mph. The high winds damaged or destroyed about eighty- two aircraft at Henderson Sky Harbor Airport and McCarran International Airport, causing fourteen million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2007: A tornado bounces across Staten Island and Brooklyn, New York, ripping off roofs and damaging dozens of buildings. The EF-2 twister hop-scotched through Brooklyn's Bay Ridge and Sunset Park neighborhoods around 6:30 am.

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*Not only will **fearing God** enable us to begin the process of **learning** His wisdom -*

*But **by becoming humble** we will receive honor that comes from Him, not others, as we willingly accept His teachings...*

Everything has a beginning. Everything has an ending. But there are many things in between.

Let's return to a familiar theme in Proverbs: The fear of the Lord. But in this verse, we are told that "The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom." Initially, the fear of the Lord was the beginning—the foundation—of wisdom. It was presented as the most fundamental part of life. Here, it takes on a new meaning.

"The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom. Humility precedes honor." It may not seem as though there is a large difference in the two phrases, but there certainly is. In this passage, we are taught that if we fear God, it can bring us into a relationship with Him where He is able to let us know what we need to change in our lives

if we become humble! Then we can make changes—whatever they are—and will come to a greater understanding of His wisdom, of ourselves, and what we need to do to grow to become more like His Son.

The keyword in this verse is the word humility.

Not only will fearing God enable us to begin the process of learning His wisdom—but by becoming humble, we will receive honor that comes from Him, not others, as we willingly accept His teachings.

Others may recognize us, even respect us, for the wisdom we possess. They may even honor us in one way or another. But to be honored by Him is the greatest gift in life.

We will only receive this honor by being in His presence, kneeling before Him in awe, worship and praise—which begins with and can only come from a sense of deep humility.

Today's Prayer: Father, we cannot understand Your holiness until we admit our sinfulness and repent in deep humility. May we realize our need to honor You with humility. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honor." -Proverbs 15:33

We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.05.25

12 27 42 59 65 2

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$166,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 54 Mins 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.06.25

26 29 30 33 40 1

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 9 Mins 44 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.07.25

16 25 26 27 36 16

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 24 Mins 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.06.25

4 7 13 18 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$83,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 24 Mins 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.06.25

9 19 21 33 46 23

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 53 Mins 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.06.25

15 27 43 45 53 9

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$482,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 53 Mins 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

08/07/2025 Family Fun Fest, Downtown Main Street 5:30-7:30pm
08/23/2025 Glacial Tournament at Olive Grove
09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm
09/6-7/25 Fly in/Drive in at Groton Municipal Airport
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
09/07/2025 Sunflower Classic Couples Scramble at Olive Grove
10/10/2025 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
10/11/2025 Pumpkin Fest 10am-3pm City Park
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1:30pm
11/30/2025 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.
12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Closure of Midwest-based newspaper chain leaves dozens of communities without a news source

By SARAH RAZA and JACK DURA Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Dozens of communities in the Midwest and West learned Thursday they had lost their newspapers after an Illinois-based publisher announced it would abruptly close because of financial problems.

News Media Corp., which owns local newspapers across five states, said it will close 14 operations in Wyoming, seven in Illinois, five in Arizona, four in South Dakota and one in Nebraska.

Touting itself as “the voice of small town America,” NMC’s closure affects longtime newspapers that were often the primary source of news in numerous small towns, worsening the problem of news deserts in rural areas.

The closure follows a decades-long pattern of financial challenges for local newspapers — the U.S. has lost over one-third of its print newspapers and two-thirds of its newspaper journalists since 2004 as the news media has struggled to adopt to a changing readership and revenue landscape, according to the Medill Local News Initiative at Northwestern University.

“Unfortunately, due to financial challenges, a significant economic downturn impacting our industry, revenue losses and increasing expenses, and the recent failure of an attempt to sell the company as a going concern, we have reached a point where continuing business is no longer feasible,” company CEO J.J. Tompkins wrote in a letter to staff Wednesday.

News Media Corp. is based in Rochelle, Illinois.

Hundreds of employees were terminated immediately, and Tompkins wrote that the company will make “reasonable efforts to pay you all remaining compensation you have earned.”

Staff took to social media to express their shock and disappointment at the news.

“No one in Huron, nor any of the other papers, knew this was coming today,” Benjamin Chase, managing editor of the Huron Plainsman in South Dakota, said in a social media post. “We’re all in shock and attempting to figure out how to move forward.”

Josh Linehan, managing editor of the Brookings Register in South Dakota, wrote in a letter to readers, “It’s no secret that it’s tough times out there for all print media, and we’re no exception.”

He added, “But make no mistake — we’re closed for now as a result of poor corporate management.”

News Media Corp. did not return a request for comment.

Brookings Mayor Ope Niemeyer said the closure of his town’s newspaper “absolutely” leaves a big hole in the community. He said it’s devastating for the newspaper’s employees and disadvantages the city, County Commission and other local boards that used the newspaper for legal notices.

Less than a year ago, Brookings lost the news on its local radio station, which left just the newspaper, now gone, he said.

“Obviously we all have websites and Facebook and LinkedIn and Instagram and all that, but there’s a generation that doesn’t use that,” said Niemeyer, who at 65 prefers a printed newspaper.

He liked the newspaper’s commentary for fostering conversations. The reporters did a great job telling readers what was going on in Brookings, a city of about 25,000 people, he said.

“It brings the community together,” the mayor said. “It’s an entity that’s going to be irreplaceable.”

The reasons behind newspaper closures are complex, with multiple factors at play, said Teri Finneman, a professor at the University of Kansas’ journalism school and publisher of The Eudora Times. The newspaper industry is using a business model that is two centuries old and unsustainable in 2025, she said.

The public also has greater reluctance to pay for local news, too few subscribers are paying too low rates and a lack of social cohesion in the U.S. has led to fracturing and mistrust in news, Finneman said. This has been coupled with declining populations in many rural areas and corporate ownership that often

is unfamiliar with running such papers, she said.

"This really needs to be a wake-up call to every town in this nation that your newspaper could be at risk as well and it is incumbent upon people to start supporting their newspapers through subscriptions and through advertising if we are going to keep critical news in these communities," Finneman said.

On Thursday, the Sioux Falls-based Dakota Scout newspaper said it plans to expand coverage in Brookings in response to the closures.

Israel plans to retake Gaza City, escalating the war with Hamas and fueling worries for hostages

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAM METZ and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel said Friday it plans to take over Gaza City — an escalation of its 22-month war with Hamas that drew a dismissal from the militant group, renewed international calls to end the conflict, and stirred fears for hostages still held in Gaza.

Israel's air and ground war has already killed tens of thousands of people in Gaza, displaced most of the population, destroyed vast areas and pushed the territory toward famine. The timing of another major ground operation remains unclear since it will likely hinge on mobilizing thousands of troops and forcibly evacuating civilians, almost certainly exacerbating the humanitarian catastrophe.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had earlier outlined more sweeping plans in an interview with Fox News, saying Israel planned to take control of all of Gaza. Israel already controls around three-quarters of the territory.

Hamas rejected Israel's current plans in a statement and said people in Gaza would "remain defiant against occupation."

"Expanding of aggression against our Palestinian people will not be a walk in the park," the group said.

Netanyahu had signaled plans for even broader war

An expanded offensive could widen discord between Israel and international powers, which have intensified criticism of the war amid reports of famine in Gaza but largely stopped short of concrete action. Australia and the United Kingdom urged Israel to reconsider.

Israel's "decision to further escalate its offensive in Gaza is wrong," British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in a statement. "It will only bring more bloodshed. ... Both parties must step away from the path of destruction."

Tensions could rise further if Netanyahu follows through on the more sweeping plans to take control of the entire territory.

Israel's current plan, announced after the Security Cabinet met through Thursday night, stopped short of that, and may be aimed in part at pressuring Hamas to accept a ceasefire on Israel's terms.

It may also reflect the reservations of Israel's military chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, who reportedly warned that expanding operations would endanger the remaining 20 or so living hostages held by Hamas and further strain Israel's army after nearly two years of regional wars.

The military "will prepare to take control of Gaza City while providing humanitarian aid to the civilian population outside the combat zones," Netanyahu's office said in a statement after the meeting.

'There is nothing left to occupy'

Israel has repeatedly bombarded Gaza City and carried out numerous raids there, only to return to neighborhoods again and again as militants regrouped. Today, it is one of the few areas in Gaza that hasn't been turned into an Israeli buffer zone or placed under evacuation orders.

A major ground operation there could displace tens of thousands of people and further disrupt efforts to deliver food to the hunger-stricken territory.

It's unclear how many people reside in the city, which was Gaza's largest before the war. Hundreds of thousands fled under evacuation orders in the opening weeks of the war, but many returned during a ceasefire at the start of this year.

Palestinians were already anticipating even more suffering ahead of the decision, and at least 42 were

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killed in Israeli airstrikes and shootings on Thursday, according to local hospitals.

"There is nothing left to occupy," said Maysaa al-Heila, who is living in a displacement camp. "There is no Gaza left."

Of those killed Thursday, Nasser Hospital said at least 13 were seeking aid in an Israeli military zone in southern Gaza where U.N. aid convoys are regularly overwhelmed by hungry crowds and people stealing food to resell it. Another two were killed on roads leading to nearby sites run by the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, an American contractor, according to the hospital, which received the bodies.

GHF said there were no violent incidents at or near its sites on Thursday. Israel's military said its forces did not fire in the morning and that it knew of no encounters in the area. The military zone, known as the Morag Corridor, is off limits to independent media.

Israel's military offensive has killed over 61,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were fighters or civilians. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals.

The United Nations and independent experts view the ministry's figures as the most reliable estimate of casualties. Israel has disputed them without offering a toll of its own.

'We don't want to keep it'

Asked in the interview with Fox News ahead of the Security Cabinet meeting if Israel would "take control of all of Gaza," Netanyahu replied: "We intend to, in order to assure our security, remove Hamas there."

"We don't want to keep it. We want to have a security perimeter," Netanyahu said in the interview. "We want to hand it over to Arab forces that will govern it properly without threatening us and giving Gazans a good life."

Hamas-led militants triggered the war when they stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people and abducting 251 people. Most of the hostages have been released in ceasefires or other deals but 50 remain inside Gaza. Israel believes around 20 of them to be alive.

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid said on Friday that the Cabinet's plan would endanger them and would not advance Israel toward its objectives.

"This is exactly what Hamas wanted: for Israel to be mired on the ground with no purpose, without defining the day-after picture, in a pointless occupation that no one understands where it is leading," he said in a statement on X.

Hamas official Osama Hamdan told Al Jazeera on Thursday that the group would view Netanyahu's proposal of an Arab-led force in post-war Gaza as linked to Israel. He warned it could further "plunge the region into new trouble."

How does the WNBA deal with sex-toy throwers? What to know about arrests and security

By ALYCE BROWN AP Sports Writer

The WNBA is still struggling with a string of sex-toy disturbances.

In the past week and a half, sex toys have been thrown on court during games in Atlanta on July 29, Chicago on Aug. 1, Los Angeles on Aug. 5 and Chicago again on Thursday night, with the most recent object hitting the court in the closing seconds of the Atlanta Dream's victory over the Sky.

The sex toy that landed on the court in Los Angeles nearly hit Fever guard Sophie Cunningham during Indiana's game against the Sparks. Sex toys were also thrown at games in New York and Phoenix last Tuesday but didn't reach the court. Police say another toy was thrown at a game in Atlanta on Aug. 1, although it's unclear if that one reached the court.

The distractions have created unexpected challenges for the league, the teams and the players, but also for arena security. Here's what to know.

Are arrests being made?

A man was arrested Saturday in College Park, Georgia, after he was accused of throwing a sex toy onto the court during the Atlanta Dream's July 29 matchup with the Golden State Valkyries, according to a police

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report. The report said he threw another sex toy during the Dream's Aug. 1 game against the Phoenix Mercury, but that instance did not seem to result in a delay of play.

He is charged with disorderly conduct, criminal trespassing, public indecency and indecent exposure. All four charges are misdemeanors in the state of Georgia, meaning that if he is convicted, the punishment for each can be a fine of up to \$1,000 or jail time of up to 12 months. A misdemeanor for public indecency and indecent exposure may also require registration on the state's sex offender list.

The report said the man told police "this was supposed to be a joke and the joke (was) supposed to go viral."

Another man in Phoenix was arrested after police say he threw a sex toy in the crowd at a Mercury game on Tuesday. Police say the 18-year-old pulled the sex toy from his sweater pocket and threw it toward seats in front of him, striking a spectator in the back.

The man later told police it was a prank that had been trending on social media and that he bought the toy a day earlier to take to the game. He was later tackled by a volunteer at the arena who had witnessed the incident and began following him as the man tried to leave the arena.

Police say the man was arrested on suspicion of assault, disorderly conduct and publicly displaying explicit sexual material.

The New York Liberty told The Associated Press on Thursday night that there is an ongoing investigation into the throwing in New York and the team is cooperating with law enforcement.

What difficulties do arena security face in stopping this?

The types of sex toys being thrown onto the court generally do not include metal elements, meaning that arena metal detectors are not able to sense them. When carried on a spectator's body, they become even more difficult to detect.

Arena security teams face challenges in catching these items, according to Ty Richmond, the president of the event services division at Allied Universal Security, a company that provides security services to certain NBA, WNBA, NFL, MLB and MLS arenas across the country.

"Not all stadiums are using a screening process that's consistent and can detect (the sex toys) because of what it would require — pat down searches, opening the bags, prohibiting bags," he said. "The conflict of expediency, of getting fans into the arena and into the venue, which is an important issue, and security and safety."

The limits of arena security make legal action one of the strongest deterrents for this kind of behavior, Richmond said.

"The decision to prosecute and show examples of how people are being handled is very important," he said. "Without a doubt, I think it will make a difference. The application of it is important, and publicizing that is important."

There have not been any arrests made yet for the in Los Angeles and Chicago. In a statement to the AP, the Sparks said they are "working with arena personnel to identify the individual responsible and ensure appropriate action is taken."

The WNBA has said that any spectators throwing objects onto the court will face a minimum one-year ban and prosecution from law enforcement.

How is it affecting players?

As the disturbances pile up, those on the court have become increasingly frustrated.

"Everyone is trying to make sure the W is not a joke and it's taken seriously, and then that happens," Cunningham said on her podcast after nearly being hit by one of the sex toys on Tuesday. "I'm like, 'How are we ever going to get taken seriously?'"

No other professional sports leagues have faced sex toy disturbances like this. It has started a conversation online about the perpetrators' choices to throw them during games in a women's league and a league with a high-profile amount of lesbian and queer players.

"This has been going on for centuries, the sexualization of women. This is the latest version of that. It's not funny. It should not be the butt of jokes," said Minnesota Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve Thursday. "The

sexualization of women is what's used to hold women down, and this is no different."

Despite the criminal behavior leading to arrests, at least one crypto-based predictions market is offering trades essentially allowing users to wager on whether sex toys will be thrown at future WNBA games.

Players have also been sounding off on social media, echoing concerns about arena security protocols.

Liberty forward Isabelle Harrison posted on X last week, saying "ARENA SECURITY?! Hello?! Please do better. It's not funny. Never was funny. Throwing ANYTHING on the court is so dangerous."

Trump's new tariffs go into effect as US economy shows signs of strain

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump began imposing higher import taxes on dozens of countries Thursday just as the economic fallout of his monthslong tariff threats has begun to cause visible damage to the U.S. economy.

Just after midnight, goods from more than 60 countries and the European Union became subject to tariff rates of 10% or higher. Products from the EU, Japan and South Korea are taxed at 15%, while imports from Taiwan, Vietnam and Bangladesh are taxed at 20%. Trump also expects the EU, Japan and South Korea to invest hundreds of billions of dollars in the United States.

"I think the growth is going to be unprecedented," Trump said Wednesday. He said the U.S. was "taking in hundreds of billions of dollars in tariffs," but did not provide a specific figure for revenues because "we don't even know what the final number is" regarding the rates.

Despite the uncertainty, the White House is confident that the onset of his tariffs will provide clarity about the path for the world's largest economy. Now that companies understand the direction the U.S. is headed, the Republican administration believes it can ramp up new investments and jump-start hiring in ways that can rebalance America as a manufacturing power.

So far, however, there are signs of self-inflicted wounds to the U.S. as companies and consumers brace for the impact of the new taxes.

Risk of economic erosion

Hiring began to stall, inflationary pressures crept upward and home values in key markets started to decline after the initial tariff rollout in April, said John Silvia, CEO of Dynamic Economic Strategy.

"A less productive economy requires fewer workers," Silvia said. "But there is more, the higher tariff prices lower workers' real wages. The economy has become less productive, and firms cannot pay the same real wages as before. Actions have consequences."

Many economists say the risk is that the American economy is steadily eroded.

"It's going to be fine sand in the gears and slow things down," said Brad Jensen, a professor at Georgetown University.

Trump has promoted the tariffs as a way to reduce America's persistent trade deficit. But importers tried to avoid the taxes by bringing in more goods before the tariffs took effect. As a result, the \$582.7 billion trade imbalance for the first half of the year was 38% higher than in 2024. Total construction spending has dropped 2.9% over the past year.

The economic pain is not confined to the U.S.

Germany, which sends 10% of its exports to the U.S. market, saw industrial production sag 1.9% in June as Trump's earlier rounds of tariffs took hold. "The new tariffs will clearly weigh on economic growth," said Carsten Brzeski, global chief of macro for ING bank.

Dismay in India and Switzerland

The lead-up to Thursday fit the slapdash nature of Trump's tariffs, which have been rolled out, walked back, delayed, increased, imposed by letter and renegotiated.

Trump on Wednesday announced additional 25% tariffs to be imposed on India because of its purchases of Russian oil, bringing its total import taxes to 50%.

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A leading group of Indian exporters said that will affect nearly 55% of the country's outbound shipments to America and force exporters to lose long-standing clients.

"Absorbing this sudden cost escalation is simply not viable. Margins are already thin," S.C. Ralhan, president of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations, said in a statement.

The Swiss executive branch, the Federal Council, was expected to meet Thursday after President Karin Keller-Sutter and other Swiss officials returned from a hastily arranged trip to Washington in a failed bid to avert a 39% U.S. tariffs on Swiss goods.

Import taxes are still coming on pharmaceutical drugs, and Trump announced 100% tariffs on computer chips. That could leave the U.S. economy in a place of suspended animation as it awaits the impact.

Stock market remains solid

The president's use of a 1977 law to declare an economic emergency to impose the tariffs is under a legal challenge. Even people who worked with Trump during his first term are skeptical, such as Paul Ryan, the Wisconsin Republican who was House speaker.

"There's no sort of rationale for this other than the president wanting to raise tariffs based upon his whims, his opinions," Ryan told CNBC on Wednesday.

Trump is aware of the risk that courts could overturn his tariffs. In a Truth Social tweet, he said, "THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP AMERICA'S GREATNESS WOULD BE A RADICAL LEFT COURT THAT WANTS TO SEE OUR COUNTRY FAIL!"

The stock market has been solid during the tariff drama, with the S&P 500 index climbing more than 25% from its April low. The market's rebound and the income tax cuts in Trump's tax and spending measure signed into law on July 4 have given the White House confidence that economic growth is bound to accelerate in the coming months.

On the global financial markets, indexes rose across much of Europe and Asia, while stocks were slipping on Wall Street.

But ING's Brzeski warned: "While financial markets seem to have grown numb to tariff announcements, let's not forget that their adverse effects on economies will gradually unfold over time."

Trump foresees an economic boom. American voters and the rest of the world wait, nervously.

"There's one person who can afford to be cavalier about the uncertainty that he's creating, and that's Donald Trump," said Rachel West, a senior fellow at The Century Foundation who worked in the Biden White House on labor policy. "The rest of Americans are already paying the price for that uncertainty."

Trust in Zelenskyy is diminished even after reversal of law that fueled anti-corruption protests

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy quickly reversed course last month on a law that would have curbed the independence of the country's anti-corruption watchdogs after widespread protests that threatened the stability of his leadership for the first time since Russia's invasion.

It's unlikely that the damage to the president's image can be changed as easily.

Zelenskyy's reversal followed years of public discontent that simmered around his inner circle, some of whom have been accused of corruption. But Ukrainians have been largely deferential toward their president in wartime, trusting him to lead the fight against the Kremlin and even acquiescing in the suspension of some civil liberties.

The protests showed the limits of that goodwill after the public concluded that Zelenskyy's fast-tracking of the law was a step too far.

"People will support Zelenskyy in whatever he does as it relates to the war. But the previous level of trust that he will carry out everything correctly, without outside interests, has been damaged," said Tetiana Shevchuk, a board member of the Ukrainian nonprofit Anti-Corruption Action Center, which fights graft. Zelenskyy "will need to work hard to get it back."

A Gallup poll released Thursday found that about two-thirds of Ukrainians approve of the way Zelenskyy

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is handling his job as president, down from 84% in 2022. Another poll released Wednesday by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology found a similar pattern, with trust in Zelenskyy down from just before the war started and a sharp decrease since after the signing of the law.

Both polls were conducted in July and excluded adults living in regions of the country that were not controlled by Ukraine or were under entrenched Russian control.

The initial decision to sign the proposal hurt Zelenskyy's standing among Ukrainians, loyal lawmakers and Western allies, including one foreign minister who told The Associated Press that his willingness to backtrack on the law would help restore "lost trust."

Zelenskyy says bill was designed to root out Russian influence

Zelenskyy sparked the outcry when he signed measures to reduce the powers of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau, or NABU, and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, or SAPO.

Zelenskyy said the initial bill was meant to root out Russian influence in those agencies, but he did not provide evidence to support the claim. The bill became a law so quickly that lawmakers said they barely had time to read it. For the Ukrainian people, patience wore thin.

From the outset of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, the public tolerated restrictions such as martial law and postponed elections. But critics also argued that the consolidation of the president's authority undermined the country's democratic institutions, along with the checks and balances necessary for transparency. Members of Zelenskyy's inner circle and the corruption allegations fueled public resentment.

The resulting anti-corruption protests in July in Kyiv and other cities were among the largest in years, drawing thousands of demonstrators and reflecting widespread public demand for transparency and accountability even during wartime.

"It's not one law that brought people to the streets, but a series of events and mostly an accumulation of feelings and wanting to show the government there are certain red lines," Shevchuk said.

Ukrainian leaders have been sensitive to public opinion ever since the Euromaidan protests of 2013 and 2014, which ignited extraordinary political changes, including the ousting of pro-Russia President Viktor Yanukovich. Those protests marked a decisive moment in Ukraine's history and galvanized public intolerance toward corruption and abuse of power.

Until recently, Zelenskyy's decisions and public statements aligned mostly with public opinion. He watches polls closely. For instance, he did not say that Ukraine would be unable to win back occupied territory militarily until polls showed that Ukrainians were willing to end the war for territorial concessions.

Many of the suspicions about Zelenskyy's inner circle focused on the head of his presidential office, Andriy Yermak, who is seen as having too much power, according to activists and Ukrainian and Western officials. In recent weeks, two other individuals close to Zelenskyy sparked public ire ahead of the protests.

The first was former Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Oleksii Chernyshov, a close ally of Zelenskyy's, who in June was formally named a suspect in a high-profile land-grab case. Later, the NABU announced that he was the sixth suspect in a large corruption scheme led by a Kyiv property developer.

The other individual is Tymur Mindich, a close friend of Zelenskyy's. Ukrainian news outlet Ukrainska Pravda reported that the NABU and the SAPO were in the process of issuing a formal notice of suspicion against the businessman, who is involved in drone production.

"Ukrainians are united around the president in his war efforts, in his efforts to gain support from allies right now and the necessary military aid," Shevchuk said. "But at the same time, people know what is happening with the close allies of the president, the allegations of corruption, so this does not go unnoticed."

The protests "were a reminder to the president from the people basically saying, 'We see everything, remember everything. And we don't want the president to use his power to protect corruption,'" she added.

Lawmakers will no longer blindly accept laws backed by Zelenskyy

Lawmakers who speedily passed the first law limiting the NABU and the SAPO said the backlash undercut the blind trust in bills backed by Zelenskyy. Bills supported by him were once passed with little objection, with few exceptions.

"I voted not because I agreed with the law, but because it was the president's decision," said lawmaker

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Oleksandr Merezhko, a member of Zelenskyy's party. "I had no time to read it, but I understood what was at risk, and I voted like other people because we trusted the president. It was his decision, and we are team players."

Zelenskyy himself conceded that communication about the law had been lacking.

"Probably there should have been a dialogue. Communication is always necessary," he told reporters on July 24.

The firm faith in Zelenskyy led one lawmaker to joke that if the president nominated a spoon for prime minister, Parliament would likely vote in favor. But that sentiment has changed, Merezhko said, with parliament now becoming more independent.

"Now members of parliament will be more careful," he said. "If before we had a presumption of trust with respect to the president or cabinet of the bills, we now have a presumption of mistrust. If similar bills are introduced," members of parliament "will remember what happened. They don't want to be framed or blamed for what happened."

But lawmakers commended Zelenskyy for acting swiftly to reverse his decision and quiet the anger on the street. Last week, parliament passed another bill restoring the independence of the NABU and the SAPO.

"People asked for changes. We responded," Zelenskyy told reporters.

Law also raised doubts in the West

The proposed law also drew concern among Ukraine's European allies, who suggested it could imperil support for Kyiv and affect Ukraine's bid to join the EU. Ukraine's closest allies welcomed the swift turnaround.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer raised the issue in a July 24 call with Zelenskyy. A readout of the call from Starmer's office said the leaders "agreed on the importance of the role of independent anti-corruption institutions at the heart of Ukraine's democracy."

In Germany, Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul expressed dismay when Zelenskyy approved the measures to reduce the powers of the NABU and the SAPO. When Zelenskyy reversed course, Wadephul wrote on X that the Ukrainian parliament's vote "was a positive and necessary step toward regaining lost trust."

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump, who often weighs in on matters in foreign countries, including their domestic affairs, has been silent about the Ukrainian corruption law.

Japanese warships visit New Zealand's capital for the first time in almost 90 years

By CHARLOTTE GRAHAM-McLAY Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Japanese warships docked in New Zealand's capital Friday for the first time in almost 90 years amid efforts by Tokyo to deepen its strategic ties in the South Pacific Ocean.

Two destroyers with more than 500 crew on board sailed into Wellington harbor accompanied by the New Zealand navy ship HMNZS Canterbury. The JS Ise and destroyer JS Suzunami were on an Indo-Pacific deployment and arrived from Sydney, where Japan's military took part this month in war games involving New Zealand, Australia and other countries.

The Wellington visit was a ceremonial one, but it came as Japan, whose only treaty ally is the United States, has increasingly sought to deepen bilateral military cooperation amid ongoing regional tensions.

"Our defense force are developing cooperative work, not only with New Zealand and Australia but also many Pacific Island countries," Japan's envoy to Wellington, Makoto Osawa, told reporters Friday. "Our main goal is the free and open Indo-Pacific."

The ambassador's remarks followed the announcement Tuesday by Australia's government that Japanese firm Mitsubishi Heavy Industries had won the bid for a contract to build Australian warships, beating out a German firm. While officials in Canberra said the Japanese proposal was the best and cheapest, they also hailed it as the biggest defense industry agreement between the countries.

New Zealand too has sought to shore up its strategic and military relations in Asia as part of a foreign policy reset in recent years that the government says has turned more attention on Pacific cooperation and security. Officials in Wellington announced in July that work had started on a defense logistics agreement

with Japan, intended to make it easier for the countries' militaries to work together.

Japanese naval vessels do not often make visits so far south in the Pacific Ocean, but the rich and strategically important waters of New Zealand, Australia and smaller Pacific Island countries are increasingly contested by the world's major powers, making it the site of a fierce battle for influence between Beijing and Western nations.

Although remote, New Zealand has recently been drawn into more fraught questions of regional security. In February, live firing exercises by Chinese naval frigates in the Tasman Sea between New Zealand and Australia drew alarm from those countries' governments after flights were forced to divert at short notice.

The last port visit to Wellington by a Japanese naval vessel was in 1936, New Zealand's military said. A Japanese ship visited New Zealand's largest city, Auckland, in 2016.

Bugs are popular pets in nature-loving Japan, buzzing with lessons about ecology and species

By YURI KAGEYAMA Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The pet of choice in Japan, as much as cuddly kitties and playful puppies, is the humble bug.

The bug has been a key part of Japanese culture from the Heian era classic "The Tale of Genji" to popular modern-day manga and animation like "Mushishi," featuring insect-like supernatural creatures.

Japanese people appreciate the glitter of fireflies let loose in the garden or the gentle chirping of crickets kept in a little cage. You can feed the bug pets watermelon, but special jelly pet food for bugs is also available at stores. Naturally, bugs are on sale as well, with the more esoteric ones selling for 20,000 yen (\$133).

Here, crawly and buzzing critters are not just relegated to the scientific realm of the entomologist working on a taxidermy of pinned butterflies. Celebrities boast about their fascination with bug-hunting as their hobbies just like a Western movie star might talk about his yacht or golf score.

The bug as companion is an essential part of what's observed, enjoyed and cared for in everyday life, reflecting a deeply rooted celebration of humankind's oneness with nature.

"They are so tiny. If you catch and study them, you're sure to discover something new," says Munetoshi Maruyama, professor of bioenvironmental sciences at Kyushu University, whose fascination with bugs began as a child, like many Japanese.

"They are so beautiful in shape and form."

One thrill that comes from studying insects is discovering a new species, simply because there are more than 1.2 million known kinds of insects, far more than mammals, which translates to a lot of undiscovered ones, said Maruyama, who has discovered 250 new insect species himself and shrugs that off as a relatively small number.

Japan differs from much of the West in encouraging interaction with bugs from childhood, with lots of books written for children, as well as classes and tours.

"In Japan, kids love bugs. You can even buy a net at a convenience store," he said. "It's fantastic that bugs can serve as a doorway to science."

The fact some insects go through metamorphoses, transforming from a larva to a butterfly, for instance, adds to the excitement, allowing kids to observe the stages of a life span, Maruyama said.

Tracing the movement of bugs can be a way to study global warming, too, while so-called "social insects," like bees and ants show intelligence in how they communicate, remember routes to find their way back to their nests or burrow elaborate underground paths as colonies.

Because bugs carry out important functions in the ecosystem, such as pollinating crops and becoming food for birds and other wildlife, human life isn't ultimately sustainable if all bugs were to disappear from earth.

The love affair with bugs was clear at an exhibit in Tokyo, aptly called "The Great Insect Exhibition,"

running through the end of this month at the Sky Tree Tower, where crowds of children gathered around trees inside indoor cages so they could observe and touch the various beetles.

One kind of rhinoceros beetle known as Hercules, which originated in the Caribbean but is now also found in Japan, is reputed to be the biggest beetle on record, although it's just several inches in length. Its back coat is a shiny khaki color, though such shades change depending on the season. The other parts, like its horn and delicate but spiky legs, are dark.

"We want the kids to feel the emotions and joy of actually touching the insects here. That's really positive for the workings of a child's brain," said Toyoji Suzuki, one of the event's organizers, who insisted everyone, including adults, touch the bottom of the beetles' horns and wings to feel how surprisingly soft and fluffy they are.

Four-year-old Asahi Yamauchi, who was at the exhibit with his grandmother and getting his photo taken inside a special installation that made it look like he was inside a beetle, loves bugs as much as he loves dinosaurs and has what he called a cute beetle as a pet at home.

"My friend had one so I wanted one," he said.

Rural Pennsylvania man kills neighbor and wounds responding troopers in gunfire ambush, police say

By MARK SCOLFORO, MARC LEVY and LISA BAUMANN Associated Press

A 61-year-old man shot and killed his neighbor in rural Pennsylvania Thursday and then ambushed first responders, wounding two state troopers and causing an EMT to crash a vehicle while firing dozens of rounds from a semiautomatic weapon, police said. The attacker was later killed by police.

The boyfriend of the woman who was killed, Lori Wasko, called 911 from their home near Thompson to report that shots had been fired, state police Col. Christopher Paris said. Police did not say why the suspect, identified as Carmine Faino, decided to kill 57-year-old Wasko outside her home and then open fire on the others.

Police said after shooting troopers Joseph Perechinsky and William Jenkins, Faino shot a police drone from the sky while sitting next to a propane tank they feared could be used as a bomb.

Perechinsky, with two chest wounds, commandeered a tractor-trailer that was driving by to block the roadway and prevent other motorists from driving into harm's way.

He ordered the driver to "pull his semi rig across the roadway so that more people would not drive down that roadway and potentially be subjected to the fire," Paris said.

Perechinsky was "still thinking at that point in time, after being shot twice in the chest, what can I do to secure this location? What can I do to make sure nobody else gets hurt?" Paris said.

Faino also fired at an SUV operated by a responding emergency worker, Paris said, and the man was injured when that vehicle veered off the roadway. He was being treated for injuries, Paris said late Thursday.

"I don't want to speak to his motive leading up to this. I would say you can draw certain conclusions from the standpoint that we believe Faino shot our victim prior to our arrival and then from a position of tactical advantage fired dozens and dozens of rounds," Paris said.

Investigators are looking into Faino's past, Paris said. He was Wasko's across-the-street neighbor, living several hundred yards (meters) away.

Both troopers, who had been wearing ballistic vests, were in stable condition with serious injuries Thursday night and "are very lucky to be alive," Paris said.

The wounded Perechinsky applied a tourniquet to Jenkins before two other troopers were able to help rescue them, Paris said. The troopers were flown to hospitals for medical care.

Gov. Josh Shapiro called the two troopers heroes and said Perechinsky "saved lives."

"He acted decisively. He acted thoughtfully. And the work he did today exemplifies the absolute best of the Pennsylvania State Police," Shapiro said.

Faino had a rifle and did not comply with demands, a state police statement said. He was "ultimately shot and killed during the incident," police said.

The shooting happened about 5 miles (8 kilometers) north of the borough of Thompson, some 163 miles (262 kilometers) north of Philadelphia.

Erika Mills, who lives less than a mile from where the shootings took place, said it made for a terrifying day in a community that is usefully peaceful.

"This is a very very quiet town. There has never been anything comparable," she said.

Israel announces plan to retake Gaza City in another escalation of the war

By MELANIE LIDMAN, WAFAA SHURAF and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel said early Friday that it plans to take over Gaza City in another escalation of its 22-month war with Hamas. The decision, taken after a late-night meeting of top officials, came despite mounting international calls to end the war and protests by many in Israel who fear for the remaining hostages held by Hamas.

Israel's air and ground war has already killed tens of thousands of people in Gaza, displaced most of the population, destroyed vast areas and pushed the territory toward famine. Another major ground operation would almost certainly exacerbate the humanitarian catastrophe.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had earlier outlined more sweeping plans in an interview with Fox News, saying Israel planned to take control of all of Gaza. Israel already controls around three quarters of the devastated territory.

The final decision, which came after Israel's Security Cabinet met through the night, stopped short of that, and may be aimed in part at pressuring Hamas to accept a ceasefire on Israel's terms.

It may also reflect the reservations of Israel's top general, who reportedly warned that it would endanger the remaining 20 or so living hostages held by Hamas and further strain Israel's army after nearly two years of regional wars.

The military "will prepare to take control of Gaza City while providing humanitarian aid to the civilian population outside the combat zones," Netanyahu's office said in a statement after the meeting.

'There is nothing left to occupy'

Israel has repeatedly bombarded Gaza City and carried out numerous raids there, only to return to different neighborhoods again and again as militants regrouped. Today it is one of the few areas of Gaza that hasn't been turned into an Israeli buffer zone or placed under evacuation orders.

A major ground operation there could displace tens of thousands of people and further disrupt efforts to deliver food to the hunger-stricken territory.

It's unclear how many people reside in the city, which was Gaza's largest before the war. Hundreds of thousands fled Gaza City under evacuation orders in the opening weeks of the war but many returned during a ceasefire at the start of this year.

Palestinians were already anticipating even more suffering ahead of the decision, and at least 42 were killed in Israeli airstrikes and shootings on Thursday, according to local hospitals.

"There is nothing left to occupy," said Maysaa al-Heila, who is living in a displacement camp. "There is no Gaza left."

'We don't want to keep it'

Asked in the interview with Fox News ahead of the Security Cabinet meeting if Israel would "take control of all of Gaza," Netanyahu replied: "We intend to, in order to assure our security, remove Hamas (from) there."

"We don't want to keep it. We want to have a security perimeter," Netanyahu said in the interview. "We want to hand it over to Arab forces that will govern it properly without threatening us and giving Gazans a good life."

Israel's military chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, warned against occupying Gaza, saying it would endanger the hostages and put further strain on the military after nearly two years of war, according to Israeli

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media reports on the closed-door Security Cabinet meeting.

Hamas-led militants abducted 251 people and killed around 1,200 in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war. Most of the hostages have been released in ceasefires or other deals but 50 remain inside Gaza, around 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive.

Almost two dozen relatives of hostages set sail from southern Israel toward the maritime border with Gaza on Thursday, where they broadcast messages from loudspeakers.

Yehuda Cohen, the father of Nimrod Cohen, an Israeli soldier held in Gaza, said from the boat that Netanyahu is prolonging the war to satisfy extremists in his governing coalition. Netanyahu's far-right allies want to escalate the war, relocate most of Gaza's population to other countries and reestablish Jewish settlements that were dismantled in 2005.

"Netanyahu is working only for himself," Cohen said.

Palestinians killed and wounded as they seek food

Israel's military offensive has killed over 61,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were fighters or civilians. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals.

The United Nations and independent experts view the ministry's figures as the most reliable estimate of casualties. Israel has disputed them without offering a toll of its own.

Of the 42 people killed on Thursday, at least 13 were seeking aid in an Israeli military zone in southern Gaza where U.N. aid convoys are regularly overwhelmed by looters and desperate crowds. Another two were killed on roads leading to nearby sites run by the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, an American contractor, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies.

GHF said there were no violent incidents at or near its sites on Thursday. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. The military zone, known as the Morag Corridor, is off limits to independent media.

Hundreds of people have been killed in recent weeks while heading to GHF sites and in chaotic scenes around U.N. convoys, most of which are overwhelmed by looters and crowds of hungry people. The U.N. human rights office, witnesses and health officials say Israeli forces have regularly opened fire toward the crowds going back to May, when Israel lifted a complete 2 1/2 month blockade.

The military says it has only fired warning shots when crowds approach its forces. GHF says its armed contractors have only used pepper spray or fired into the air on some occasions to prevent deadly stampedes.

Israel and GHF face mounting criticism

Doctors Without Borders, a medical charity known by its French acronym MSF, published a blistering report denouncing the GHF distribution system. "This is not aid. It is orchestrated killing," it said.

MSF runs two health centers very close to GHF sites in southern Gaza and said it had treated 1,380 people injured near the sites between June 7 and July 20, including 28 people who were dead upon arrival. Of those, at least 147 had suffered gunshot wounds — including at least 41 children.

MSF said hundreds more suffered physical assault injuries from chaotic scrambles for food at the sites, and multiple patients with severely aggravated eyes after being sprayed at close range with pepper spray. It said the cases it saw were only a fraction of the overall casualties connected to GHF sites.

"The level of mismanagement, chaos and violence at GHF distribution sites amounts to either reckless negligence or a deliberately designed death trap," the report said.

GHF said the "accusations are both false and disgraceful" and accused MSF of "amplifying a disinformation campaign" orchestrated by Hamas.

The U.S. and Israel helped set up the GHF system as an alternative to the U.N.-run aid delivery system that has sustained Gaza for decades, accusing Hamas of siphoning off assistance. The U.N. denies any mass diversion by Hamas. It accuses GHF of forcing Palestinians to risk their lives to get food and say it advances Israel's plans for further mass displacement.

Judge orders temporary halt to construction at Florida's 'Alligator Alcatraz' detention center

By DAVID FISCHER Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday ordered a two-week halt to construction at an immigrant detention center in the Florida Everglades dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz" as she considers whether it violates environmental laws.

The facility was quickly built two months ago at a lightly used, single-runway training airport and can hold up to 3,000 detainees in temporary tent structures. The site was continuing to be built out, but the order by U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams temporarily bars the installation of any new industrial-style lighting, as well as any paving, filling, excavating or fencing. The order also prohibits any other site expansion, including placing or erecting any additional buildings, tents, dormitories or other residential or administrative facilities.

The order doesn't include any restrictions on law enforcement or immigration enforcement activity at the center, which is currently holding hundreds of detainees. Williams issued the temporary restraining order during a hearing and then followed up with a written order later Thursday.

Environmental groups and the Miccosukee Tribe have asked Williams to issue a preliminary injunction to halt operations and further construction. The suit argues that the project threatens environmentally sensitive wetlands that are home to protected plants and animals and would reverse billions of dollars' worth of environmental restoration.

"We're pleased that the judge saw the urgent need to put a pause on additional construction, and we look forward to advancing our ultimate goal of protecting the unique and imperiled Everglades ecosystem from further damage caused by this mass detention facility," said Eve Samples, executive director at Friends of the Everglades.

A spokesperson for Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis decried the ruling but said it "will have no impact on immigration enforcement in Florida."

"Alligator Alcatraz will remain operational, continuing to serve as a force multiplier to enhance deportation efforts," spokesperson Alex Lanfranconi said in a statement.

The order is temporary, since arguments in the case are still pending.

Plaintiffs presented witnesses Wednesday and Thursday in support of the injunction, while attorneys for the state and federal government were scheduled to present next week.

Following Thursday's testimony, Paul Schwiep, an attorney for the environmental groups, asked Williams to issue a temporary restraining order that would at least prevent any new construction at the site while the preliminary injunction was argued.

Williams asked Florida attorney Jesse Panuccio if the state would agree to halt construction so that she wouldn't need to issue the restraining order. She pointed out that anything built at the site would likely remain there permanently, regardless of how the case was ultimately decided.

Panuccio said he couldn't guarantee that the state would stop all work.

This sparked an hour-long hearing about the temporary restraining order, which will be in place for the next two weeks while the ongoing preliminary injunction hearing continues. Temporary restraining orders are meant to maintain the status quo during a legal dispute for a short period of time, while preliminary injunctions are generally issued after a longer hearing and last until the final resolution of the case.

The legal fight centers on federal vs. state control of the site.

The crux of the plaintiffs' argument is that the detention facility violates the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of major construction projects.

Panuccio said during the hearing that although the detention center would be holding federal detainees, the construction and operation of the facility is entirely under the state of Florida, meaning the NEPA review wouldn't apply.

Schwiep said the purpose of the facility is for immigration enforcement, which is exclusively a federal function. He said the facility wouldn't exist if it wasn't for the federal government's desire for a facility to

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hold detainees.

Williams said Thursday that the detention facility was, at a minimum, a joint partnership between the state and federal government.

Christopher McVoy, a soil physicist, hydrologist and wetlands ecologist, testified for the plaintiffs on Thursday that at least 20 acres (8 hectares) of asphalt have been added to the site since the Florida Department of Emergency Management began construction, based on a tour that he took of the facility in June, just days before it opened, and subsequent aerial photos of the site. Tents, trailers and other heavy equipment have also been moved to the airport, which previously had just a few small structures.

Dillon Reio, a licensed professional geologist, testified that the new paving could lead to an increase in water runoff to the adjacent wetlands and spread harmful chemicals into the Everglades.

A second lawsuit alleges violations of detainees' rights

The lawsuit in Miami against federal and state authorities is one of two legal challenges to the South Florida detention center, which was built more than a month ago by the state of Florida on an isolated airstrip owned by Miami-Dade County.

A second lawsuit brought by civil rights groups says detainees' constitutional rights are being violated since they are barred from meeting lawyers, are being held without any charges, and a federal immigration court has canceled bond hearings. A hearing in that case is scheduled for Aug. 18.

In a court filing in the civil rights lawsuit on Thursday, the state of Florida said that detainees have been allowed to meet with their lawyers for three weeks at the detention center, which opened July 3, despite some initial delays due to logistical challenges in having private contractors build infrastructure and install equipment. Since July 15, the state has granted every request for a detainee to meet with an attorney, it said.

"More meetings are taking place every day and there have been no complaints," according to the filing.

Construction, maintenance and operation of the detention center are done by the state of Florida, "without involvement of the federal government," though the state is granted authority over the detainees through an intergovernmental agreement with federal agencies, the court filing said.

Under the 55-year-old federal environmental law, federal agencies should have examined how the detention center's construction would impact the environment, identified ways to minimize the impact and followed other procedural rules such as allowing public comment, according to the environmental groups and the tribe.

It makes no difference that the detention center was built by the state of Florida, since federal agencies have authority over immigration, the lawsuit said.

Attorneys for federal and state agencies last week asked Williams to dismiss or transfer the injunction request, saying the lawsuit was filed in the wrong jurisdiction. Even though the property is owned by Miami-Dade County, Florida's southern district is the wrong venue for the lawsuit since the detention center is located in neighboring Collier County, which is in the state's middle district, they said.

Williams had yet to rule on that argument.

The lawsuits were being heard as DeSantis' administration apparently was preparing to build a second immigration detention center at a Florida National Guard training center in north Florida. At least one contract has been awarded for what's labeled in state records as the "North Detention Facility."

Wall Street drifts as stock markets worldwide take Trump's new tariffs in stride

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks drifted to a mixed finish on Thursday as President Donald Trump's tariffs taking effect on dozens of countries had only a muted effect on markets worldwide.

The S&P 500 slipped 0.1% after briefly climbing to the cusp of its all-time high during the morning. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 224 points, or 0.5%, and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.3% to a

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record.

Worries are high that Trump's tariffs are damaging the economy, particularly after last week's worse-than-expected report on the job market. But hopes for coming cuts to interest rates by the Federal Reserve and a torrent of stronger-than-expected profit reports from big U.S. companies are helping to offset the concerns, at least for now.

Lower interest rates can give the economy and investment prices a boost, though the downside is that they can also push inflation higher. The Bank of England cut its main interest rate on Thursday in hopes of bolstering the sluggish U.K. economy.

The U.S. tariffs that took effect Thursday morning were already well known, as well as lower than what Trump had initially threatened. Some countries are still trying to negotiate down the tax rates on their exports, and continued uncertainty seems to be the only certainty on Wall Street. All the while, the U.S. stock market faces criticism that it's climbed too far, too fast since hitting a bottom in April, with prices looking too expensive.

On Wall Street, worries about tariffs helped drag down the stock of Crocs.

The footwear maker tumbled 29.2% even though it reported a stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. It said it expects revenue to drop as much as 11% in the current quarter from a year earlier, while tariffs are dragging on its profitability. The company cited "continued uncertainty from evolving global trade policy and related pressures around the consumer."

Eli Lilly dropped 14.1% even though the drugmaker likewise reported a stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. Analysts said some investors were disappointed with results that Lilly provided for a late-stage study of its potential pill version of the popular weight-loss drug Zepbound.

Intel sank 3.1% after Trump called for its CEO to resign, while accusing him of being "highly CONFLICTED," though he gave no evidence.

Apple helped keep the market's losses in check, as it rose on hopes that its massive size can help it navigate Trump's economy. Its stock climbed 3.2% after CEO Tim Cook joined Trump at the White House on Wednesday to say it's increasing its investment in U.S. manufacturing by an additional \$100 billion over the next four years.

Trump also announced a 100% tariff on imported computer chips, but he added "if you're building in the United States of America, there's no charge."

"Large, cash-rich companies that can afford to build in America will be the ones to benefit the most," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management. "It's survival of the biggest."

DoorDash added 5% after the delivery app topped Wall Street's profit expectations for the latest quarter. It attracted new customers and saw the total number of orders increase.

Duolingo, the language-learning app, jumped 13.7% after it crushed Wall Street's expectations. The company said its subscription revenue grew 46% over the same period last year.

All told the S&P 500 edged down by 5.06 points to 6,340.00. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dipped 224.48 to 43,968.64, and the Nasdaq composite rose 73.27 to 21,242.70.

In stock markets abroad, indexes rose across much of Europe and Asia.

Stocks climbed 0.2% in Shanghai and 0.7% in Hong Kong after China reported that its exports picked up in July, helped by a flurry of shipments as businesses took advantage of a pause in Trump's tariff war with Beijing.

Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.6%. Toyota Motor's stock fell after it cut its full-year earnings forecasts largely because of Trump's tariffs, but Sony rose after the entertainment and electronics company indicated it's taking less damage from the tariffs than it had expected.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.23% from 4.22% late Wednesday after the latest reports on the U.S. economy came in mixed.

One said that slightly more U.S. workers applied for unemployment benefits last week. That could be an indication of rising layoffs, but the number remains within its recent range.

"There is nothing to see here!" according to Carl Weinberg, chief economist at High Frequency Economics. "These are not nearly recession readings."

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A separate report said that productivity for U.S. workers improved by more during the spring than economists expected. That could help the U.S. economy grow without adding more pressure on inflation. And that's particularly important when Trump's tariffs look set to increase prices for all kinds of things that U.S. households and businesses buy.

JD Vance went kayaking for his birthday. Secret Service had the river level raised

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Vice President JD Vance's security detail had an Ohio river's water level raised last weekend to accommodate a kayaking trip he and his family took to celebrate his 41st birthday.

The U.S. Secret Service said it requested the increased waterflow for the Little Miami River, first reported by The Guardian, to ensure motorized watercraft and emergency personnel "could operate safely" while protecting the Republican vice president, whose home is in Cincinnati.

But critics immediately blasted the action as a sign of the vice president's entitlement, particularly given the Trump administration's focus on slashing government spending.

Richard W. Painter, who served as chief White House ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush, said on X that "it's outrageous for the Army corps of engineers to spend taxpayer money to increase water flow in a river so @VP can go canoeing when budget cuts to the National Park Service have severely impacted family vacations for everyone else."

The Corps of Engineers declined to address any financial impact of raising the river. Spokesman Gene Pawlik said the agency's Louisville District temporarily increased outflows from the Caesar Creek Lake in southwest Ohio into the Little Miami "to support safe navigation of U.S. Secret Service personnel." He said the move met operational criteria and fell within normal practice.

"It was determined that the operations would not adversely affect downstream or upstream water levels," he said in a statement. "Downstream stakeholders were notified in advance of the slight outflow increase, which occurred August 1, 2025." Vance's birthday was on Aug. 2.

Vance spokesman Taylor Van Kirk said the vice president was unaware the river had been raised.

"The Secret Service often employs protective measures without the knowledge of the Vice President or his staff, as was the case last weekend," she said via text.

The sprawling 2,830-acre Caesar Creek Lake has an unlimited horsepower designation and five launch ramps, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources website. A marina, campground and lodge are also located on site. The department provided two natural resources officers to assist the Secret Service with the Vance event, spokesperson Karina Cheung said.

The Vance family has already become accustomed to certain accommodations being made as they move about the world. During a recent trip to Italy, the Roman Colosseum was closed to the public so that his wife, Usha, and their children could take a tour, sparking anger among some tourists. The Taj Mahal also was closed to visitors during the Vance family's visit to India.

Such special treatment isn't reserved for one political party.

When Democratic Vice President Al Gore, then a presidential candidate, paddled down the Connecticut River for a photo opportunity in 1999, utility officials had opened a dam and released 4 billion gallons of water to raise the river's level. That request, too, came after a review of the area by the Secret Service — and Gore also experienced political pushback.

Gore's campaign said at the time that he did not ask for the water to be released.

Trump opens the door for private equity and crypto as 401(k) retirement plan options

By KEN SWEET AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Millions of Americans saving for retirement through 401(k) accounts could have the

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option of putting their money in higher-risk private equity and cryptocurrency investments, according to an executive order signed Thursday by President Donald Trump that could give those financial players long-sought access to a pool of funds worth trillions.

There is no immediate change in how people invest part of their work earnings. Federal agencies would need to rewrite rules and regulations to allow the expanded choices, and that would take months or more to complete. But once done, employers could offer a broader array of mutual funds and investments to workers, according to the White House. New plans could invest in alternative assets, particularly private equity, cryptocurrencies and real estate.

The Republican president's order directs the Labor Department and other agencies to redefine what would be considered a qualified asset under 401(k) retirement rules.

Americans' retirement plans are governed by a law known as the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, better known as ERISA. Employers are required by law to offer retirement options that are in the best interest of their employees, not Wall Street. Most retirement plans for Americans are made up of stock and bond investments, and to a much lesser extent, cash and heavily traded commodities such as gold.

Trump's move rewards both the \$5 trillion private equity industry, which for decades has wanted to compete for a role in retirement plans, and the cryptocurrency industry, whose executives strongly supported Trump's 2024 campaign as they aimed for more mainstream acceptance among Americans.

The price of bitcoin was up 2% on Thursday to \$116,542 and has nearly doubled since Trump was elected.

Under Democratic President Joe Biden, federal regulators were to treat cryptocurrency investments with "extreme care" because of the extreme volatility of crypto. It is not uncommon for bitcoin, ethereum and other big cryptocurrencies to move up or down 10% in a single day, whereas a 2% or 3% single-day move in the stock market would be considered historic.

For cryptocurrency companies, which donated millions to Trump's campaign as well as his inauguration, one goal was to get their industry qualified under ERISA. Coinbase, one of the largest crypto companies in the United States, was also a major donor toward Trump's military parade in Washington this summer. Under Trump, the Securities and Exchange Commission dropped its lawsuit against Coinbase, where the Biden administration said crypto should be treated as a security.

Crypto is particularly popular among young Americans. While volatile, bitcoin has generally moved upward since it was created by an anonymous programmer nearly 20 years ago.

"It was inevitable that bitcoin would make its way into American 401(k)s," said Cory Klippsten, the CEO of Swan Bitcoin. "As fiduciaries realize bitcoin's risk-adjusted upside over the long term, we'll see growing allocations, especially from younger, tech-savvy workers who want hard money, not melting ice cubes."

Private equity firms rely heavily on high-net-worth individuals and state and private pension plans, which have extremely long investment timelines. But having access to Americans' retirement assets would open up a deep pool of cash.

Blackstone CEO Steve Schwarzman has told investors going back to at least 2017 that it was a "dream" of his and the industry to be able to draw upon these retirement assets. Previous administrations, Republican and Democrat, have agreed that private equity investments, which can be riskier, more expensive and less liquid than traditional stock and bond market mutual funds, should not be included in 401(k) plans.

The average historic annual return on private equity assets going back to 1990 is roughly 13%, net of fees, according to Cambridge Associates. The S&P 500 index has had an approximate annual return, including dividends, of roughly 10.6% in the same period of time. However, private equity assets tend to be locked up for years, because the companies underlying the assets have to be sold on the private market, making them highly illiquid compared to stocks, which can be sold in a day.

"We look forward to working with the Trump Administration on a thoughtful framework that expands access to alternatives for retirement savers, offering Americans more diversification and investment options with appropriate investor guardrails," said Bryan Corbett, the president and CEO of the Managed Funds Association, which is the trade group for the private equity industry.

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Even after the regulations are written, it will take time for major retirement plan companies, such as Fidelity, Vanguard, T. Rowe Price, and others, to develop appropriate funds for employers to use. Employers are unlikely to revise their retirement plan options quickly, so it may take several years before crypto and private equity investments become mainstream in an individual's retirement plan.

"While Vanguard has not committed to launching a product for defined contribution plans, Vanguard is dedicated to educating retirement investors to ensure a clear understanding of the opportunities and risks of investing in private assets," the company said in a statement.

Trump to nominate top economic aide Stephen Miran to Federal Reserve board

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Thursday he will nominate a top economic adviser to the Federal Reserve's board of governors for four months, temporarily filling a vacancy while continuing his search for a longer-term appointment.

Trump said he has named Stephen Miran, the chair of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, to fill a seat vacated by governor Adriana Kugler, a Biden appointee who is stepping down Friday. Miran, if approved by the Senate, will serve until January 31, 2026.

The appointment is Trump's first opportunity to exert more control over the Fed, one of the few remaining independent federal agencies. Trump has relentlessly criticized the current chair, Jerome Powell, for keeping short-term interest rates unchanged, calling him "a stubborn MORON" last week on social media.

Miran has been a major defender of Trump's income tax cuts and tariff hikes, arguing that the combination will generate enough economic growth to reduce budget deficits. He also has played down the risk of Trump's tariffs generating higher inflation, a major source of concern for Powell.

The choice of Miran may heighten concerns about political influence over the Fed, which has traditionally been insulated from day-to-day politics. Fed independence is generally seen as key to ensuring that it can take difficult steps to combat inflation, such as raising interest rates, that politicians might be unwilling to take.

Federal Reserve governors vote on all the central bank's interest-rate decisions, as well as its financial regulatory policies.

Miran's nomination, if approved, would add a near-certain vote in support of lower interest rates. Kugler had echoed Powell's view that the Fed should keep rates unchanged and further evaluate the impact of tariffs on the economy before making any moves.

Trump has said he will appoint Fed officials who will cut interest rates, which he says will reduce the borrowing costs of the federal government's huge \$36 trillion debt pile. Trump also wants lower rates to boost moribund home sales, which have been held back partly by higher mortgage costs. Yet the Fed doesn't directly set longer-term interest rates for things like home and car purchases.

At its most recent meeting last week, Fed officials kept their key rate unchanged at 4.3%, where it has stood after three rate cuts late last year. But two Fed governors — Christopher Waller and Michelle Bowman — dissented from that decision. Both were appointed by Trump in his first term.

Still, even with Miran on the board, 12 Fed officials vote on interest rate policy and many remain concerned that Trump's sweeping tariffs could push inflation higher in the coming months.

Miran could be renominated to a longer term on the Fed once his initial appointment is concluded, or replaced by another nominee.

Powell's term as chair ends in May 2026. Yet, Powell could remain on the board of governors until January 2028, even after he steps down as chair. That would deny, or at least delay, an opportunity for Trump to appoint an additional policymaker to the Fed's board.

As a result, one option for Trump is to appoint Powell's eventual replacement as chair to replace Kugler once the remaining four months of her term are completed. Leading candidates for that position include Kevin Warsh, a former Fed governor from 2006 to 2011 and frequent critic of Powell's chairmanship, and

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Kevin Hassett, another top Trump economic adviser.

Another option for the White House next May would be to select Waller, who is already on the board, to replace Powell, and who has been widely mentioned as a candidate.

Marco Casiraghi, senior economist at investment bank Evercore ISI, noted that the choice of Miran could be a positive sign for Waller, because Trump did not take the opportunity to nominate someone likely to become chair once Powell steps down.

After the July jobs report was released last Friday, Miran criticized the Fed chair for not cutting benchmark interest rates, saying that Trump had been proven correct on inflation during his first term and would be again. The president has pressured Powell to cut short-term interest rates under the belief that his tariffs will not fuel higher inflationary pressures.

"What we're seeing now in real time is a repetition once again of this pattern where the president will end up having been proven right," Miran said on MSNBC. "And the Fed will, with a lag and probably quite too late, eventually catch up to the president's view."

Last year, Miran expressed support for some unconventional economic views in commentaries on the Fed and international economics.

Last November, he proposed measures that would reduce the value of the dollar in order to boost exports, reduce imports and cut the U.S. trade deficit, a top priority for Trump. He also suggested tariffs could push U.S. trading partners, such as the European Union and Japan, to accept a cheaper dollar as part of a "Mar-a-Lago Accord," an echo of the Plaza Accord reached in the 1980s that lowered the dollar's value.

As a fellow at the conservative Manhattan Institute, Miran in March 2024 also proposed overhauling the Fed's governance, including by making it easier for a president to fire members of its board of governors.

"The Fed's current governance has facilitated groupthink that has led to significant monetary-policy errors," Miran wrote in a paper with Dan Katz, now a top official at the Treasury Department.

Trump's redistricting fight mushrooms with Vance in Indiana and Florida joining the fray

By BILL BARROW, ISABELLA VOLMERT and TOM MURPHY Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AP) — As President Donald Trump ramps up pressure on Republican-run states to redraw congressional boundaries, he has dispatched Vice President JD Vance to Indiana and called for a new federal census — moves reflecting his intent to maximize the GOP's partisan advantages in coming elections.

Separately, a top Republican leader in Florida announced plans Thursday to begin redistricting efforts in the president's adopted home state. And U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said FBI Director Kash Patel had granted his request for the agency to get involved in corralling Texas Democratic lawmakers who left the state to deny the Republican majority a quorum necessary to vote on a U.S. House redistricting plan at the forefront of Trump's initiative.

The FBI has not detailed what role it might attempt to play. Indiana Gov. Mike Braun was mum after a private Thursday morning session with Vance. And Florida's plans are in their opening phase.

The developments reflect rising intensity in a fight that began in GOP-dominated Texas, spread to Democratic-run California and now seems to be mushrooming. The dynamics could embroil the 2026 midterm campaign in legislative and court battles testing Trump's power over the Republican Party, Democrats' ability to mount opposition and the durability of the U.S. system of federalism that balances power between Washington and individual states.

Texas has been the epicenter of Trump's push to gerrymander congressional maps to shore up Republicans' narrow House majority in 2026. At a time when competitive House districts number just several dozen, Democrats are three seats short of a House majority under the current maps. Trump wants five more seats out of Texas to potentially avoid a repeat of the 2018 midterms, when Democrats reclaimed the House and proceeded to thwart his agenda and impeach him twice.

Braun has seemingly affirmed Democrats' warnings that Texas is a test case for the GOP to scale nation-

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ally. "It looks like it's going to happen across many Republican states," he told reporters ahead of Vance's visit, though he's made no promises about his own state.

Vance holds private meetings in Indianapolis

Vance met privately with Braun and others at the Indiana Capitol on Thursday.

Afterward, Braun sidestepped redistricting — contrasting Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's enthusiastic embrace of Trump's demands. "We discussed a number of issues, and I was pleased to highlight some of the great things happening in Indiana," Braun said via his official social media account.

Around 100 people protested at the Capitol.

"I'm 75, and I never, never thought I had to worry about our democracy being taken apart from the inside," said Linda Linn of Indianapolis, as she held a sign warning Braun not to disenfranchise her.

Braun would have to call a special session to start the redistricting process, but lawmakers have sole power to draw new maps.

Republican U.S. representatives outnumber Democrats in Indiana 7-2, limiting possibilities of squeezing out another seat.

While Braun is a staunch Trump ally in a state the president won by 19 percentage points in 2024, Indiana lawmakers have avoided the national spotlight in recent years — especially after a 2022 special session that yielded a strict abortion ban. Former Vice President Mike Pence, a past Indiana governor, also holds sway over many state lawmakers and has a more measured approach to partisan politics than Trump.

Indiana's Republican legislative leaders praised existing boundaries after adopting them four years ago. "I believe these maps reflect feedback from the public and will serve Hoosiers well for the next decade," Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray said at the time.

Rep. André Carson, one of two Indiana Democrats in the U.S. House, said he has not seen any alternate maps, calling them theoretical for now.

"If Republicans get too cute, they may hurt themselves," he warned.

Still, Republicans hold a supermajority in the General Assembly, meaning Democrats could not thwart a special session by refusing to attend, as Texas Democrats are doing.

"Statehouse Dems will do everything within our power to work with Hoosiers to make sure the checks and balances remain and we remain to be the firewall not just for Indiana but for the entire country," said state Senate minority leader Shelli Yoder, though she acknowledged there is little the party could do to stop redistricting if Republicans choose to please Trump.

The Census Bureau and Florida are now in the mix

Trump already is flouting U.S. political traditions with such a widespread, aggressive push for mid-decade redistricting. He added another variable with a social media post on Thursday calling for "new and highly accurate CENSUS" that does not count U.S. residents who are not citizens, permanent residents or otherwise legal immigrants.

He did not offer any timeline or details for such a massive undertaking, and his post raises constitutional questions about the once-a-decade process that apportions the U.S. House of Representatives among the states and sets distribution formulas for nearly \$3 trillion in federal spending programs. The Constitution's 14th Amendment declares that House seats "shall be" established based on "the whole number of persons in each state," and during Trump's first term, the Supreme Court effectively blocked him from adding a citizenship question to the 2020 census.

Still, Trump has, in his second presidency, pushed the boundaries of executive action, even amid ongoing legal disputes or court orders, and the Census Bureau is under the direction of his Commerce Department, led by Secretary Howard Lutnick.

In Florida, the third most populous state, state House Speaker Daniel Perez said his chamber will take up redistricting this fall through a special committee. State Senate leaders have not yet followed Perez's lead. Gov. Ron DeSantis, an erstwhile Trump rival-turned-ally, previously told the public to "stay tuned."

Texas lawmakers still spread across other states

Pressure has intensified on Texas Democratic lawmakers — dozens of whom remain in other states and

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outside the jurisdiction of civil warrants issued by the Republican majority for their return. Besides Sen. Cornyn trying to engage the FBI, state Attorney General Ken Paxton on Thursday filed a new request asking an Illinois state court to rule that the Texas warrants are enforceable in Illinois under the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Under Texas legislative rules, face \$500 daily fines that exceed their compensation and cannot be paid, legally, by their campaign accounts. Political contributions are being used to cover some costs of their travel, lodging and meals while they are outside the state.

Texas Democrats hope to run out the clock on a special session that would end Aug. 19. But Abbott could call another session, increasing prospects for an extended stalemate.

While their minority status allows them only to delay, the Texas holdout has inspired Democrats and progressives around the country.

California's Gavin Newsom wants Democratic gerrymandering in his state if Texas proceeds, though voters would have to bypass an independent redistricting commission. Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, both of whom have appeared alongside Texas Democrats who relocated to their states, have also declared their intent to push new maps if they are necessary to neutralize Republican maneuvers.

Intel's stock tumbles after Trump says its CEO must resign

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN, DAVID KLEPPER and DIDI TANG Associated Press

Shares of Intel slumped Thursday after President Donald Trump said in a social media post that the chipmaker's CEO needs to resign.

"The CEO of Intel is highly CONFLICTED and must resign, immediately," Trump posted on Truth Social. "There is no other solution to this problem. Thank you for your attention to this problem!"

Trump made the post after Sen. Tom Cotton sent a letter to Intel Chairman Frank Yeary expressing concern over CEO Lip-Bu Tan's investments and ties to semiconductor firms that are reportedly linked to the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army, and asked the board whether Tan had divested his interests in these companies to eliminate any conflicts of interest.

It's not immediately clear if Tan, who took over as Intel's CEO in March, has divested his interests in the companies.

In a statement, Intel said it's "deeply committed to advancing U.S. national and economic security interests and are making significant investments aligned with the President's America First agenda."

"In March 2025, Intel appointed Lip-Bu Tan as its new CEO," Cotton wrote in the letter. "Mr. Tan reportedly controls dozens of Chinese companies and has a stake in hundreds of Chinese advanced-manufacturing and chip firms. At least eight of these companies reportedly have ties to the Chinese People's Liberation Army."

Cotton specifically called out Tan's recent leadership of Cadence Design Systems in the letter. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Cadence, in July, agreed to plead guilty to resolve charges that it violated export controls rules to sell hardware and software to China's National University of Defense Technology, which is linked to the Chinese military. Tan was the CEO of Cadence when the company violated the rules between 2015 and 2021.

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security also fined Candence \$95 million for the same breaches, saying Cadence admitted that "employees of its Chinese subsidiary knowingly transferred sensitive U.S. technology to entities that develop supercomputers in support of China's military modernization and nuclear weapons programs."

Cadence did not immediately respond to AP requests.

Tan previously launched the venture capital firm Walden International in 1987 to focus on funding tech start-ups, including chip makers. China's state media has described Tan as "actively" devoted to Chinese and Asian markets, having invested not only in the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company but also China's state-owned enterprise SMIC, which seeks to advance China's chipmaking capabilities.

The demands made by Trump and Cotton come as economic and political rivalries between the U.S. and

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China increasingly focus on the competition over chips, AI and other digital technologies that experts say will shape future economies and military conflicts.

Cotton, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has raised concerns that Chinese spies could be working at tech companies and defense contractors, using their positions to steal secrets or plant digital backdoors that give China access to classified systems and networks.

On Thursday the Arkansas Republican wrote to the Department of Defense urging Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to ban all non-U.S. citizens from jobs allowing them to access DoD networks. He has also demanded an investigation into Chinese citizens working for defense contractors.

"The U.S. government recognizes that China's cyber capabilities pose one of the most aggressive and dangerous threats to the United States, as evidenced by infiltration of our critical infrastructure, telecommunications networks, and supply chains," Cotton wrote in an earlier letter calling on the Pentagon to conduct the investigation.

National security officials have linked China's government to hacking campaigns targeting prominent Americans and critical U.S. systems.

"U.S. companies who receive government grants should be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and adhere to strict security regulations," Cotton wrote on the social platform X.

Intel had been a beneficiary of the Biden administration's CHIPS Act, receiving more than \$8 billion in federal funding to build computer chip plants around the country.

Shares of the California company slid 3.5%, while markets, particularly the tech-heavy Nasdaq, gained ground.

Founded in 1968 at the start of the PC revolution, Intel missed the technological shift to mobile computing triggered by Apple's 2007 release of the iPhone, and it's lagged more nimble chipmakers. Intel's troubles have been magnified since the advent of artificial intelligence — a booming field where the chips made by once-smaller rival Nvidia have become tech's hottest commodity.

Intel is shedding thousands of workers and cutting expenses — including some domestic semiconductor manufacturing capabilities — as Tan tries to revive the fortunes of the struggling chipmaker.

Trump orders colleges to prove they don't consider race in admissions

By ANNIE MA and JOCELYN GECKER AP Education Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Colleges will be required to submit data to prove they do not consider race in admissions under a new policy ordered Thursday by President Donald Trump.

In 2023, the Supreme Court ruled against the use of affirmative action in admissions but said colleges may still consider how race has shaped students' lives if applicants share that information in their admissions essays.

Trump is accusing colleges of using personal statements and other proxies to consider race, which conservatives view as illegal discrimination.

The role of race in admissions has featured in the Trump administration's battle against some of the nation's most elite colleges — viewed by Republicans as liberal hotbeds. For example, the new policy is similar to parts of recent settlement agreements the government negotiated with Brown University and Columbia University, restoring their federal research money. The universities agreed to give the government data on the race, grade point average and standardized test scores of applicants, admitted students and enrolled students. The schools also agreed to be audited by the government and to release admissions statistics to the public.

Trump says colleges may be skirting SCOTUS ruling

Conservatives have argued that despite the Supreme Court ruling, colleges have continued to consider race.

"The persistent lack of available data — paired with the rampant use of 'diversity statements' and other overt and hidden racial proxies — continues to raise concerns about whether race is actually used in ad-

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missions decisions in practice," says the memorandum signed by Trump.

The memo directs Education Secretary Linda McMahon to require colleges to report more data "to provide adequate transparency into admissions." The National Center for Education Statistics will collect new data, including the race and sex of colleges' applicants, admitted students and enrolled students, the Education Department said in a statement.

If colleges fail to submit timely, complete and accurate data, McMahon can take action under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which outlines requirements for colleges receiving federal financial aid for students, according to the memo.

It is unclear what practical impact the executive order will have on colleges. Current understanding of federal law prohibits them from collecting information on race as part of admissions, said Jon Fansmith, senior vice president of government relations at the American Council on Education, an association of college presidents.

"Ultimately, will it mean anything? Probably not," Fansmith said. "But it does continue this rhetoric from the administration that some students are being preferenced in the admission process at the expense of other students."

Because of the Supreme Court ruling, colleges have been barred from asking the race of students who are applying, Fansmith said. Once students enroll, the schools can ask about race, but students must be told they have a right not to answer. In this political climate, many students won't report their race, Fansmith said. So when schools release data on student demographics, the figures often give only a partial picture of the campus makeup.

Diversity changed at some colleges — but not all

The first year of admissions data after the Supreme Court ruling showed no clear pattern in how colleges' diversity changed. Results varied dramatically from one campus to the next.

Some schools, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Amherst College, saw steep drops in the percentage of Black students in their incoming classes. But at other elite, selective schools such as Yale, Princeton and the University of Virginia, the changes were less than a percentage point year to year.

Some colleges have added more essays or personal statements to their admissions process to get a better picture of an applicant's background, a strategy the Supreme Court invited in its ruling.

"Nothing prohibits universities from considering an applicant's discussion of how race affected the applicant's life, so long as that discussion is concretely tied to a quality of character or unique ability that the particular applicant can contribute to the university," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in 2023 for the court's conservative majority.

As an alternative to affirmative action, colleges for years have tried a range of strategies to achieve the diversity they say is essential to their campuses.

Many have given greater preference to low-income families. Others started admitting top students from every community in their state.

Prior to the ruling, nine states had banned affirmative action, starting with California in 1996. The University of California saw enrollment change after the statewide ban in 1996. Within two years, Black and Hispanic enrollments fell by half at the system's two most selective campuses — Berkeley and UCLA. The system would go on to spend more than \$500 million on programs aimed at low-income and first-generation college students.

The 10-campus University of California system also started a program that promises admission to the top 9% of students in each high school across the state, an attempt to reach strong students from all backgrounds. A similar promise in Texas has been credited for expanding racial diversity, and opponents of affirmative action cite it as a successful model.

In California, the promise drew students from a wider geographic area but did little to expand racial diversity, the system said in a brief to the Supreme Court. It had almost no impact at Berkeley and UCLA, where students compete against tens of thousands of other applicants.

Today at UCLA and Berkeley, Hispanic students make up 20% of undergraduates, higher than in 1996 but lower than their 53% share among California's high school graduates. Black students, meanwhile, have

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a smaller presence than they did in 1996, accounting for 4% of undergraduates at Berkeley.

After Michigan voters rejected affirmative action in 2006, the University of Michigan shifted attention to low-income students.

The school sent graduates to work as counselors in low-income high schools and started offering college prep in Detroit and Grand Rapids. It offered full scholarships for low-income Michigan residents and, more recently, started accepting fewer early admission applications, which are more likely to come from white students.

Despite the University of Michigan's efforts, the share of Black and Hispanic undergraduates hasn't fully rebounded from a falloff after 2006. And while Hispanic enrollments have been increasing, Black enrollments continued to slide, going from 8% of undergraduates in 2006 to 4% in 2025.

Trump says he would meet with Putin even if the Russian leader won't meet with Ukraine's Zelenskyy

By DASHA LITVINOVA, BARRY HATTON and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

U.S. President Donald Trump said Thursday that he would meet with Vladimir Putin even if the Russian leader will not meet with Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in comments that suggested Washington and Moscow could soon hold a summit.

Trump's comments followed a statement from Putin earlier in the day that he hoped to meet with Trump next week, possibly in the United Arab Emirates. But the White House was still working through the details of any potential meetings, press secretary Karoline Leavitt said.

When asked by a reporter if Putin would need to meet with Zelenskyy in order to secure a meeting with the U.S., Trump said: "No, he doesn't. No."

A White House official told The Associated Press earlier Thursday that a U.S.-Russian summit would not happen if Putin did not agree to meet with Zelenskyy, but the official later said it only made the summit less likely. The official was not authorized to speak publicly and had spoken on condition of anonymity.

A meeting with Trump would be a coup for Putin, who has spurned previous offers of a face-to-face meeting with Zelenskyy and has been isolated globally since the invasion. He has long suggested a meeting with Trump to discuss ending the fighting. Trump too has repeatedly boasted that he and Putin could make a deal to end the war.

Any direct talks between them about the conflict would also renew questions about the risk of excluding Ukraine from peace efforts.

Putin's announcement came on the eve of a White House deadline for Moscow to show progress toward ending the 3-year-old war in Ukraine or suffer additional economic sanctions.

When asked Thursday at the White House whether his deadline for Friday would hold, Trump said of Putin: "It's going to be up to him. We're going to see what he has to say. It's going to be up to him. Very disappointed."

The president also touched on the killing that has continued on both sides and added, "I don't like long waits. I think it's a shame."

Speaking of possible direct talks with Zelenskyy, Putin said he has mentioned several times that he was not against it, adding: "It's a possibility, but certain conditions need to be created" for it to happen.

The Kremlin has previously said that Putin and Zelenskyy should meet only when an agreement negotiated by their delegations is close.

Ukraine fears being sidelined by direct negotiations between Washington and Moscow, and Zelenskyy said he had phone conversations with several European leaders Thursday amid a flurry of diplomatic activity. European countries have pledged to back Ukraine for as long as it takes to defeat Russia's invasion.

Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, earlier brushed aside the possibility of Zelenskyy joining the summit, something the White House said Trump was ready to consider. Putin has spurned Zelenskyy's previous offers of a meeting to clinch a breakthrough.

"We propose, first of all, to focus on preparing a bilateral meeting with Trump, and we consider it most

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important that this meeting be successful and productive,” Ushakov said, adding that U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff’s suggestion of a meeting including Ukraine’s leader “was not specifically discussed.”

Putin made the announcement in the Kremlin about a possible meeting with Trump after meeting with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the president of the UAE.

Asked who initiated the possible talks with the American president, Putin said that didn’t matter and “both sides expressed an interest.”

Kirill Dmitriev, the head of Russia’s sovereign wealth fund who met Wednesday with Witkoff, said a Trump-Putin meeting would allow Moscow to “clearly convey its position,” and he hoped a summit would include discussions on mutually beneficial economic issues, including joint investments in areas such as rare earth elements.

The meeting would be the first U.S.-Russia summit since 2021, when former President Joe Biden met Putin in Geneva. It would be a significant milestone toward Trump’s effort to end the war, although there’s no guarantee it would stop the fighting since Moscow and Kyiv remain far apart on their conditions for peace.

Months of U.S.-led efforts have yielded no progress on stopping Russia’s invasion of its neighbor. The war has killed tens of thousands of troops on both sides and more than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians, according to the United Nations.

Western officials have repeatedly accused Putin of stalling in peace negotiations to allow Russian forces time to capture more Ukrainian land. Putin previously has offered no concessions and said he will accept a settlement only on his terms.

At the start of his second term, Trump was conciliatory toward Putin, for whom he has long shown admiration, and even echoed some of his talking points on the war. But he recently has expressed increasing exasperation with Putin, criticizing the Kremlin leader for his unyielding stance on U.S.-led peace efforts, and has threatened Moscow with new sanctions.

Zelenskyy seeks European involvement

Zelenskyy said European countries must also be involved in finding a solution to the war on their own continent.

“Ukraine is not afraid of meetings and expects the same bold approach from the Russian side. It is time to end the war,” he added.

A ceasefire and long-term security guarantees are priorities in potential negotiation with Russia, he said on social media.

Securing a truce, deciding a format for a summit and providing assurances for Ukraine’s future protection from invasion — a consideration that must involve the U.S. and Europe — are crucial aspects to address, Zelenskyy said.

He noted that Russian strikes on civilians have not eased despite Trump publicly urging Putin to relent. A Russian attack Wednesday in the central Dnipro region killed four people and wounded eight others, he said.

Poll shows support for continuing the fight waning in Ukraine

A new Gallup poll published Thursday found that Ukrainians are increasingly eager for a peace settlement. In the survey, conducted in early July, about seven in 10 Ukrainians said their country should seek to negotiate a settlement as soon as possible.

The enthusiasm for a negotiated deal is a sharp reversal from 2022 — the year the war began — when Gallup found that about three-quarters of Ukrainians wanted to keep fighting until victory. Now only about one-quarter hold that view, with support for continuing the war declining steadily across all regions and demographic groups.

The findings were based on samples of 1,000 or more respondents ages 15 and older living in Ukraine. Some territories under entrenched Russian control, representing about 10% of the population, were excluded from surveys conducted after 2022 due to lack of access.

In Kyiv, opinions on the usefulness of a Trump-Putin meeting were divided.

“Negotiations are necessary, and we all really want the war to end ... because this war will only end with

negotiations," resident Ruslan Prindun said.

But Volodymyr Tasak said it was "unlikely" that anything good would come from U.S.-Russia talks and that Zelenskyy was "being squeezed out."

Lyudmila Kostrova said in downtown Kyiv that Putin was simply trying to avoid U.S. sanctions by agreeing to meet with Trump. "Putin is not interested in ending the war now," she said.

Soldiers hailed as heroes for tackling armed assailant at Georgia Army base

By RUSS BYNUM and JEFF MARTIN Associated Press

FORT STEWART, Ga. (AP) — Sgt. Aaron Turner was helping lock down a supply warehouse on Fort Stewart after gunshots were reported in a neighboring office building. Then he saw a fellow soldier walking past, wearing a hooded sweatshirt over his uniform and holding a handgun.

Instead of ducking for cover, Turner said, he approached the gunman and started talking — asking what he was doing there and where he was heading. When he got close enough, Turner grabbed the soldier's gun and took him to the floor, where soldiers held him down until military police arrived.

"I was able to keep a cool head, but pretty much my training ended up kicking in," Turner said Thursday. "It wasn't about my life at that point. It was about the soldiers."

Authorities say a member of Turner's unit, 28-year-old Sgt. Quornelius Radford, shot and wounded five fellow soldiers Wednesday morning at the sprawling Army post southeast of Savannah. Radford was taken into custody. The injured were rushed to hospitals and are expected to recover.

Army secretary says soldiers' quick response 'absolutely saved lives'

Army Secretary Dan Driscoll came to Fort Stewart on Thursday to praise Turner and five other soldiers for their quick actions in subduing the gunman to prevent further bloodshed and rendering life-saving aid to the victims.

Driscoll awarded each of them the Meritorious Service Medal.

"The fast action of these soldiers under stress and under trauma and under fire absolutely saved lives from being lost," Driscoll told a news conference afterward.

Authorities say Radford used a personal handgun in the shootings. Fort Stewart officials have not said why he opened fire, citing the criminal investigation.

Radford worked as a supply sergeant assigned to the 703rd Brigade Support Battalion of the 3rd Infantry's 2nd Armored Brigade at Fort Stewart, the largest U.S. Army post east of the Mississippi River, and home to thousands of soldiers.

Authorities have not determined what prompted the violence. The battalion's commander, Lt. Col. Mike Sanford, said Thursday that he's unaware of any problems with Radford or arguments that preceded the shootings.

"Right now, there's no signs that there was an issue," Sanford said in an interview.

Radford's father, Eddie Radford of Jacksonville, Florida, told The New York Times that he didn't notice anything unusual about his son's behavior recently. However, he said his son had sought a transfer and complained to his family about racism at the base.

Sgt. Radford, who is Black, texted his aunt shortly before the shooting and "said that he loved everybody, and that he'll be in a better place because he was about to go and do something," Radford's father said.

Soldier followed the sound of a shot and a shell casing to one victim

1st Sgt. Joshua Arnold was doing paperwork in a conference room Wednesday morning when he heard a loud noise and saw someone rush past the door. He asked himself: Was that a gunshot?

Arnold said he walked into the hall where he saw a haze in the air, like gunsmoke. Then he spotted the shell casing from a fired bullet on the floor.

"I immediately looked up and saw the first victim," Arnold said. "The person said to me: 'I've been shot. I've been shot.'"

Staff Sgt. Melissa Taylor was reading email in her office when she heard Arnold calling for help. She ran

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to where Arnold was treating the wounded soldier and took over — removing the soldier's shirt to reveal a gunshot wound to the chest, and applying pressure to stop the bleeding.

"I had no medical supplies or anything with me," said Arnold, who has training as a combat medic. "I had my bare hands. I was covered in blood, up to my elbows on both arms. There's no time for you to stop and put on gloves in a situation like that. It's a life or death situation."

Meanwhile, Arnold found two more gunshot victims in offices nearby. He gave each emergency aid until medics arrived.

The injured were taken to the hospital and three underwent surgery, officials said.

Base commander says wounded expected to recover

Brig. Gen. John Lubas, the 3rd Infantry's commander, said two of the soldiers remained hospitalized Thursday and were stable. He said doctors expect each of them to recover.

This latest act of violence on a U.S. military installation — sites supposed to be among the most secure in the country — again raised concerns about safety and security within the armed forces' own walls. Driscoll said the Army would be looking to see if any security improvements are needed.

Army records released to The Associated Press show Radford enlisted in January 2018. He has not been deployed overseas.

Radford also faces an Aug. 20 hearing in Hinesville, the small city outside Fort Stewart's main gate, on accusations of driving under the influence and running a red light just after 1 a.m. on May 18, according to a citation and court filing. He was given a blood test and freed on a \$1,818 bond, the documents said.

A telephone number listed for Radford in public records rang unanswered.

Attorney Sneh Patel is representing Radford in the traffic case but not the shooting as of Wednesday, he said in an email. Whether he has a lawyer to defend him in the shooting wasn't immediately clear.

At Fort Stewart, soldiers of the 2nd Brigade were back at work Thursday after their friends and coworkers were shot. Dozens of them stood outside the brigade headquarters building as the Army secretary presented medals to Taylor, Arnold, Turner and the others.

Asked if she held her family a little tighter Wednesday night after the shootings, Taylor said she went home and cooked them a special dinner.

"I made my kids' favorite," she said, "which was shepherd's pie."

Jen Pawol feels like 'fully charged battery ready to go' ahead of breaking big league gender barrier

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jen Pawol was in her hotel room in Nashville, Tennessee, when she got the call she had awaited for a decade.

She was going to make her major league debut this weekend, becoming the first female umpire in a century and a half of big league baseball.

"I was overcome with emotion," Pawol recalled Thursday, two days before she breaks a gender barrier when she works the bases during Miami's doubleheader at Atlanta. "It was super emotional to finally be living that phone call that I'd been hoping for and working towards for quite a while, and I just felt super full — I feel like a fully charged battery ready to go."

Her voice quivering with emotion, Pawol talked about getting the news during a Wednesday conference call with director of umpire development Rich Rieker and vice president of umpire operations Matt McKendry.

Pawol thought back to her long road. In the early 1990s at West Milford High School in New Jersey, she had a summer conversation with Lauren Rissmeyer, the third baseman on the school's softball team.

"Do you want to come umpire with me?" Pawol remembered being asked. "I didn't think twice about it. Lauren's doing it, so I'm going to do it."

Pawol's pay was \$15 per game.

"She took a field and I took a field," Pawol said. "It was a one-umpire system. I had no idea what I was doing, but I got to put gear on and call balls and strikes, so I was in."

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A 1995 graduate at West Milford, which inducted her into its Athletic Hall of Fame in 2022, Pawol became a three-time all-conference softball selection pick at Hofstra.

After umpiring NCAA softball from 2010-16, she was approached by then-big league ump Ted Barrett at an umpire camp in Binghamton, New York, in early 2015.

"Moreso than any female that I'd seen, she looked like she could handle the rigors of the job physically," Barrett said Thursday. "But what impressed me was her willingness to learn. She seemed like a sponge, everything that we were teaching her. I'm proud that I made her aware of the opportunity."

Barrett invited Pawol to attend a clinic in Atlanta and then a MLB tryout camp at Cincinnati that Aug. 15. He invited her to dinner in Atlanta with fellow big league umpers Paul Nauert and Marvin Hudson and their wives.

"I warned her: 'Look, this is what you're up against. It's going to be 10 years in the minor leagues before you sniff a big big field,'" Barrett said.

Pawol was among 38 hopefuls invited to the Umpire Training Academy at Vero Beach, Florida, and started her pro umpiring career in the Gulf Coast League on June 24, 2016, working the plate when the GCL Tigers West played at the GCL Blue Jays.

She moved up to the New York/Penn League in 2017, the Midwest League after the first two weeks of the 2018 season, then worked the South Atlantic League in 2019, the High-A Midwest League in 2021, the Double-A Eastern League and the Triple-A International and Pacific Coast Leagues in 2023. She was called in for big league spring training in 2024 and '25.

"This has been over 1,200 minor league games, countless hours of video review trying to get better, and underneath it all has just been this passion and this love for the game of baseball," she said. "This started in my playing days as a catcher and transformed over into an umpire, and I think it's gotten even stronger as an umpire. Umpiring is for me, it's in my DNA. It's been a long, hard journey."

Among eight female umpires currently in the minors, she will join Chris Guccione's crew in Atlanta, where she expects about 30 family and friends. She is to work the bases during Saturday's doubleheader and call balls and strikes on Sunday.

Pawol was at third base on Wednesday night as Jacksonville beat Nashville in the International League when Sounds third baseman Oliver Dunn congratulated her.

"If I make it to the big leagues," he told her, "we will have both worked all the levels together."

Pawol repeatedly thanked her minor league umpiring predecessors, mentioning several who exchanged calls or texts, including Christine Wren, Pam Postema and Ria Cortesio. Just after her promotion to Triple-A, Pawol met with Postema in Las Vegas.

"The last thing she said to me when I saw her was: Get it done!" Pawol explained. "So I texted her yesterday and said, 'I'm getting it done!'"

Barrett will be watching from Oregon, where he is attending Northwest League games this weekend.

"The hopes of this are that it inspires," he said. "Who knows, there'll be a young lady watching the game on TV and says, 'Hey, I'd like to try that.'"

US Air Force to deny retirement pay to transgender service members being separated from the service

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Air Force said Thursday it would deny all transgender service members who have served between 15 and 18 years the option to retire early and would instead separate them without retirement benefits. One Air Force sergeant said he was "betrayed and devastated" by the move.

The move means that transgender service members will now be faced with the choice of either taking a lump-sum separation payment offered to junior troops or be removed from the service.

An Air Force spokesperson told The Associated Press that "although service members with 15 to 18 years of honorable service were permitted to apply for an exception to policy, none of the exceptions to policy were approved." About a dozen service members had been "prematurely notified" that they would

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be able to retire before that decision was reversed, according to the spokesperson who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal Air Force policy.

A memo issued Monday announcing the new policy, which was reviewed by the AP, said that the choice to deny retirement benefits was made "after careful consideration of the individual applications."

All transgender members of the Air Force are being separated from the service under the Trump administration's policies.

Separation process has hit some bumps

The move comes after the Pentagon was given permission in early May by the Supreme Court to move forward with a ban on all transgender troops serving in the military. Days later, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced a policy that would offer currently openly serving transgender troops the option to either volunteer to leave and take a large, one-time separation payout or be involuntarily separated at a later date.

A Pentagon official told reporters in May that they viewed the policy as treating "anyone impacted by it with dignity and respect."

However, in late July, transgender troops told Military.com that they were finding the entire separation process, which has included reverting their service records back to their birth gender, "dehumanizing" or "open cruelty."

Shannon Leary, a lawyer who represents LGBTQ+ people in employment discrimination cases, says she expects lawsuits to challenge Thursday's decision. "It seems quite arbitrary on its face and cruel," she said. "These military members have dedicated their lives to serving our country."

Normally, Leary said, when early retirement is offered in the military, it's available to all members who have served over 15 years. She said she expects other service branches to follow the Air Force's path.

One Air Force service member says he's 'devastated'

Logan Ireland, a master sergeant in the U.S. Air Force who has 15 years of service, including a deployment to Afghanistan, is one of the airmen impacted by the policy. "I feel betrayed and devastated by the news," he said.

Ireland said he was told that his retirement was being denied on Wednesday when his chain of command, "with tears in their eyes," told him the news.

Officials have said that as of Dec. 9, 2024, there were 4,240 troops diagnosed with "gender dysphoria" on active duty, National Guard and Reserve. Pentagon officials have decided to use the condition and its diagnosis as the main way to identify troops who are trans.

However, the two are not an exact match — not every transgender person has the condition. As a result, there is an understanding that the actual number of transgender people within the military's roughly 2 million troops may be higher.

Under the latest policy, active duty troops had until June 6 to voluntarily identify themselves and receive a payout while troops in the National Guard and Reserve had until July 7. Pentagon officials previously told reporters that they plan to lean on commanders and existing annual medical screenings to find any transgender service members who do not come forward.

FBI forces out more leaders, including ex-director who fought Trump demand for Jan. 6 agents' names

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI is forcing out more senior officials, including a former acting director who resisted Trump administration demands to turn over the names of agents who participated in Jan. 6 Capitol riot investigations and the head of the bureau's Washington field office, according to people familiar with the matter and internal communications seen by The Associated Press.

The basis for the ouster of Brian Driscoll, who led the bureau in the turbulent weeks after President Donald Trump's inauguration in January, were not immediately clear, but Driscoll's final day at the FBI is Friday, said the people, who were not authorized to discuss the personnel move by name and spoke to

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the AP on the condition of anonymity.

"I understand that you may have a lot of questions regarding why, for which I have no answers," Driscoll wrote in a message to colleagues. "No cause has been articulated at this time."

Another high-profile termination is Steven Jensen, who for months had been the assistant director in charge of the Washington field office, one of the bureau's largest and busiest. He confirmed in a message to colleagues Thursday he had been told he was being fired effective Friday.

"I intend to meet this challenge like any other I have faced in this organization, with professionalism, integrity and dignity," Jensen wrote in an email.

Jensen did not say whether he had been given a reason, but his appointment to the job in April was sharply criticized by some Trump supporters because he had overseen a domestic terrorism section after the 2021 riot at the Capitol. The FBI has characterized that attack, in which the Republican president's supporters stormed the Capitol in a bid to halt the certification of election results after he lost to Democrat Joe Biden, as an act of domestic terrorism.

People familiar with the matter identified another agent being pushed out as Walter Giardina, who has drawn scrutiny from Sen. Chuck Grassley, the Republican chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Giardina's prior investigations have included the one into Trump aide Peter Navarro, who was convicted of contempt of Congress.

Spokespeople for the FBI declined to comment Thursday. The FBI Agents Association said in a statement that it was concerned by reports of the firings of senior leaders and that it was reviewing all legal options to defend its members. The group said firing agents without due process would make the country less safe.

"There is a review process when employment actions are taken against agents. The process was established so that the FBI could remain independent and apolitical. FBI leadership committed — both publicly and directly to FBIAA — that they would abide by that process. We urge them to honor that commitment and follow the law," the statement said.

A broader personnel purge

The news about Driscoll and Jensen comes amid a much broader personnel purge that has unfolded over the last several months under the leadership of FBI Director Kash Patel and his deputy, Dan Bongino. Numerous senior officials including top agents in charge of big-city field offices have been pushed out of their jobs, and some agents have been subjected to polygraph exams, moves that former officials say have roiled the workforce and contributed to angst.

Driscoll is a veteran agent who worked international counterterrorism investigations in New York and had commanded the bureau's Hostage Rescue Team. He had most recently served as acting director in charge of the FBI's Critical Incident Response Group, which deploys resources to crisis situations.

Driscoll was named acting director in January to replace Christopher Wray and served in the position as Patel's nomination was pending.

Driscoll made headlines after he and Robert Kissane, the then-deputy director, resisted Trump administration demands for a list of agents who participated in investigations into the Jan. 6 riot. Many within the FBI had seen that request as a precursor for mass firings, particularly in light of separate moves to fire members of special counsel Jack Smith's team that prosecuted Trump, reassign senior career Justice Department officials and force out prosecutors on Jan. 6 cases and top FBI executives.

The Justice Department's request

Emil Bove, the then-senior Justice Department official who made the request and was last week confirmed for a seat on a federal appeals court, wrote a memo at the time accusing the FBI's top leaders of "insubordination" for resisting his requests "to identify the core team" responsible for Jan. 6 investigations.

He said the requests were meant to "permit the Justice Department to conduct a review of those particular agents' conduct pursuant to Trump's executive order" on "weaponization" in the Biden administration.

Responding to Bove's request, the FBI provided personnel details about several thousand employees, identifying them by unique employee numbers rather than by names.

In his farewell note, Driscoll told colleagues that it was "the honor of my life to serve alongside each of you."

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He wrote: "Our collective sacrifice for those we serve is, and will always be, worth it. I regret nothing. You are my heroes and I remain in your debt."

Agents demoted, reassigned and pushed out

The FBI has moved under Patel's watch to aggressively demote, reassign or push out agents seen as being out of favor with bureau leadership or the Trump administration.

In April, for instance, the bureau reassigned several agents who were photographed kneeling during a racial justice protest in Washington that followed the 2020 death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers.

Numerous special agents in charge of field offices have been told to retire, resign or accept reassignment.

Another agent, Michael Feinberg, has said publicly that he was told to resign or accept a demotion amid scrutiny from leadership of his friendship with Peter Strzok, a lead agent on the FBI's Trump-Russia investigation who was fired by the Justice Department in 2018 following revelations that he had exchanged negative text messages about Trump with an FBI lawyer, Lisa Page. Feinberg said he resigned.

Officials plan to seek the death penalty for a Tennessee man charged with killing 4 people

By ADRIAN SAINZ and JONATHAN MATTISE Associated Press

TIPTONVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Prosecutors plan to seek the death penalty against a Tennessee man charged with killing the parents, grandmother and uncle of an infant found abandoned in a home's front yard, authorities said Thursday.

Austin Robert Drummond, 28, appeared by a video feed from jail before a judge in Tiptonville, two days after he was arrested in the killings that set mostly rural areas of western Tennessee on edge.

District Attorney Danny Goodman told the judge that the state intends to seek the death penalty. Lake County General Sessions Judge Andrew T. Cook ordered Drummond held without bond because it is a capital case.

Drummond was sitting in a black and white striped jumpsuit. He told a judge he operated a business and he said he wants a speedy trial. The judge entered a not guilty plea on his behalf and granted him a court-appointed attorney, who did not immediately return a calls seeking comment Thursday.

The judge also arraigned Branden Powell, who authorities say was stopped in a vehicle with Drummond days before the shootings as they were attempting to deliver marijuana to the jail in Lake County. Powell did not enter a plea because he is trying to hire a lawyer, he said during his hearing.

Drummond is charged with four counts of first-degree murder, aggravated kidnapping and weapons offenses. A weeklong search for Drummond ended in Jackson, about 70 miles (113 kilometers) southeast of the location of the July 29 slayings.

Officers had responded to a call of an infant in a car seat being dropped at a "random individual's front yard" in the Tigrett area, roughly 40 miles (65 kilometers) from Tiptonville, the Dyer County Sheriff's Office said.

Then, investigators in neighboring Lake County reported that four people had been found dead from gunshot wounds in Tiptonville. Officials determined they were the baby's parents, James M. Wilson, 21, and Adrianna Williams, 20; Williams' brother, Braydon Williams, 15; and their mother, Cortney Rose, 38.

Investigators determined the four had not been seen since the night before, Goodman said. A relative had called 911 after finding two vehicles in a remote area, and the four bodies were found in nearby woods, Goodman said.

Goodman said Drummond's girlfriend is the sister of the infant's grandmother.

Kim Hamil, Wilson's mother, said Thursday that it was a "really bad situation" for the relatives and they were trying to let justice take its course. They were going to be in court every chance they could, Hamil said.

"It's a whole family gone," said Hamil. "It's unbelievable."

She said the family loved each other and that Wilson was a good father and son. Relatives are caring

for the baby.

"As a family, we're just broken," Hamil said.

It's believed Drummond targeted the victims, said Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Director David Rausch. The agency has also charged three other people with helping Drummond after the killings.

Drummond was arrested based on tips after police released a surveillance clip showing a man they said was Drummond wearing camouflage and carrying a firearm, authorities said. Drummond had been staying in a vacant building near the woods.

Drummond has served prison time for robbing a convenience store and threatening to go after jurors. He was also charged with attempted murder while behind bars, and was out on bond at the time of the killings, Goodman said.

With a population of about 3,400 people, Tiptonville is near the Mississippi River and scenic Reelfoot Lake. A popular tourist destination, the 15,000-acre (6,070-hectare) lake was created by violent earthquakes in 1811-1812 that caused the river to flow backward and essentially flood a forest.

What US consumers can expect from new tariffs on imported goods

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writers

American businesses and consumers soon will have a better idea of how President Donald Trump's foreign trade agenda might affect them now that the United States has imposed higher tariffs on products from dozens of countries.

It's been nearly 100 years since the nation had an overall import tax rate as high as the one set Thursday. But the individual impact on business costs and consumer prices could vary as much as the tariffs applied to goods of nearly 70 U.S. trading partners, from complicated economies like the European Union to the small African nation of Lesotho.

Exports from a majority of them are getting taxed at 15%. For a handful of countries in Asia, the rate is 19%. Products from the rest are subject to taxes of 20% to 50%. Meanwhile, a 55% tariff on Chinese-made goods is scheduled to take effect next week if a U.S.-China trade deal is not agreed on before then.

Businesses in the U.S. and abroad have been dealing in various ways since February with Trump's fluctuating tariffs on specific products and countries. Many automakers appeared to have absorbed the costs for now. But recent government data indicated that retail prices for groceries, furniture and appliances started creeping up in June.

Because tariffs are a tax on imports, economists have expected U.S. consumers to foot at least part of the bill eventually.

The country-specific round enforced Thursday, together with the president's earlier tariffs on specific sectors such as automobiles and steel, will increase prices 1.8% in the short term, the Budget Lab at Yale estimated. That's the equivalent of a \$2,400 loss of income per U.S. household, according to the non-partisan policy research center.

The projections were based on an analysis of duties implemented this year through Wednesday, as well as a doubling of the levy on items made in India that Trump said would be implemented near the end of August.

"Retailers have been able to hold the line on pricing so far, but the new increased tariffs will significantly raise costs for U.S. retailers, manufacturers and consumers," Jon Gold, vice president of supply chain and customs policy at the National Retail Federation trade group, said in an emailed statement to The Associated Press.

Here's what to know about the tariffs and where U.S. consumers are most likely to notice effects:
How we got here

Trump unveiled sweeping import taxes on goods coming into the U.S. from 66 countries, the European Union, Taiwan and the Falkland Islands in April. He said the "reciprocal" tariffs were meant to boost do-

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mestic manufacturing and restore fairness to global trade.

The president paused the country-specific tariffs a week later but applied a 10% tax to most imports. In early July, he began notifying countries that their exports would be subject to higher tariffs on Aug. 1 unless they reached trade deals. A week ago, he pushed the start date to Thursday.

In the meantime, Trump announced a 35% tariff on imports from Canada, but delayed action on Mexico while negotiations continued. However, a free trade agreement reached with Mexico and Canada during Trump's first term shields most of those countries' products from punishing duties.

The president also ordered a 50% tariff on goods from Brazil. This week, he signed an executive order to take India's tariff rate from 25% to 50% for its purchases of Russian oil. The timing gives India and Russia a chance to negotiate with the Trump administration.

Other duties not specific to countries remain in place, such as a 50% tariff on imported aluminum and steel announced in June. Trump also threatened 100% tariffs on computer chips that aren't made in the U.S. The administration has said tariffs are still coming on imported pharmaceutical drugs.

Tariffs are already impacting prices

The U.S. Commerce Department reported on July 31 that prices rose 2.6% in June, up from an annual pace of 2.4% in May. Earlier in July, the government reported that its primary inflation measure, the Consumer Price Index, also ticked higher in June as the cost of furniture, toys and other frequently imported items increased.

Shoppers should be prepared to pay more for clothes and shoes because the combined tariffs "disproportionately affect clothing and textiles," according to the Budget Lab at Yale. It estimates that shoe prices will go up 39% temporarily and stay 19% above where they are now. For apparel, the Budget Lab put the comparable figures at 37% and 18%.

Overall, Americans face an average tax of 18.6% for imported products, the highest rate since 1933, the research center said.

Food and drink prices will climb

The tariffs will almost certainly result in higher food prices, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Tax Foundation. The U.S. simply doesn't make enough of some products, like bananas or coffee, to satisfy demand. Fish, beer and liquor are also likely to get more expensive, the foundation said.

The U.S. Wine Trade Alliance and other alcohol industry trade groups sent a letter to Trump that warned a 15% tariff on European wines and spirits could result in more than 25,000 American job losses and cost the industry nearly \$2 billion in lost sales.

"Mr. President, we need toasts, not tariffs, as we head into the most important season for our industry," read the letter dated Wednesday.

Wine distributors and retailers avoided price increases before now by accelerating shipments from France and other EU countries earlier in the year. But with the EU's tariff rate raised to 15% on Thursday, customers may see European wines costing 30% more in September, U.S. Wine Trade Alliance President Ben Aneff said.

Car prices hold steady — so far

Some automakers already raised prices to counteract tariffs. Luxury sports car maker Ferrari said last week it was waiting for more details of Trump's trade deal with the EU before scaling back a 10% surcharge it put on most vehicles in the U.S.

For the most part, automakers waited for details instead of passing on tariff costs to consumers. But that could change.

General Motors said on July 22 that the impact of the tariffs could get more pronounced in the third quarter of the year. GM has estimated the tariffs will cost it \$4 billion to \$5 billion this year.

Toyota reported Thursday a 37% drop in profits in the April-June quarter, cutting its full-year earnings forecasts largely because of Trump's tariffs.

Still a clouded picture

Even with so many new tariffs kicking in, the tariff situation remains fluid. Trump's use of an emergency

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powers law to implement tariffs is being challenged in the courts. The case is expected to wind up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Moreover, the tariffs on goods from China haven't been finalized. Consumers may start seeing more effects when the administration ends a tax exemption for small parcels sent from other countries.

Trump last week signed an order to suspend the "de minimis" exemption that has allowed shipments valued at \$800 or less to enter the U.S. duty-free. International e-commerce companies have widely used the rule to avoid paying customs charges.

Trump withdrew the exemption in early April for goods shipped from China and Hong Kong tariff-free. It is now set to be eliminated for low-value packages from every country on Aug. 29.

Harvard scientists say research could be set back years after funding freeze

By LEAH WILLINGHAM and MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Harvard University professor Alberto Ascherio's research is literally frozen.

Collected from millions of U.S. soldiers over two decades using millions of dollars from taxpayers, the epidemiology and nutrition scientist has blood samples stored in liquid nitrogen freezers within the university's T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

The samples are key to his award-winning research, which seeks a cure to multiple sclerosis and other neurodegenerative diseases. But for months, Ascherio has been unable to work with the samples because he lost \$7 million in federal research funding, a casualty of Harvard's fight with the Trump administration.

"It's like we have been creating a state-of-the-art telescope to explore the universe, and now we don't have money to launch it," said Ascherio. "We built everything and now we are ready to use it to make a new discovery that could impact millions of people in the world and then, 'Poof. You're being cut off.'"

Researchers laid off and science shelved

The loss of an estimated \$2.6 billion in federal funding at Harvard has meant that some of the world's most prominent researchers are laying off young researchers. They are shelving years or even decades of research, into everything from opioid addiction to cancer.

And despite Harvard's lawsuits against the administration, and settlement talks between the warring parties, researchers are confronting the fact that some of their work may never resume.

The funding cuts are part of a monthslong battle that the Trump administration has waged against some of the country's top universities including Columbia, Brown and Northwestern. The administration has taken a particularly aggressive stance against Harvard, freezing funding after the country's oldest university rejected a series of government demands issued by a federal antisemitism task force.

The government had demanded sweeping changes at Harvard related to campus protests, academics and admissions — meant to address government accusations that the university had become a hotbed of liberalism and tolerated anti-Jewish harassment.

Research jeopardized, even if court case prevails

Harvard responded by filing a federal lawsuit, accusing the Trump administration of waging a retaliation campaign against the university. In the lawsuit, it laid out reforms it had taken to address antisemitism but also vowed not to "surrender its independence or relinquish its constitutional rights."

"Make no mistake: Harvard rejects antisemitism and discrimination in all of its forms and is actively making structural reforms to eradicate antisemitism on campus," the university said in its legal complaint. "But rather than engage with Harvard regarding those ongoing efforts, the Government announced a sweeping freeze of funding for medical, scientific, technological, and other research that has nothing at all to do with antisemitism."

The Trump administration denies the cuts were made in retaliation, saying the grants were under review even before the demands were sent in April. It argues the government has wide discretion to cancel federal contracts for policy reasons.

The funding cuts have left Harvard's research community in a state of shock, feeling as if they are be-

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ing unfairly targeted in a fight has nothing to do with them. Some have been forced to shutter labs or scramble to find nongovernment funding to replace lost money.

In May, Harvard announced that it would put up at least \$250 million of its own money to continue research efforts, but university President Alan Garber warned of "difficult decisions and sacrifices" ahead.

Ascherio said the university was able to pull together funding to pay his researchers' salaries until next June. But he's still been left without resources needed to fund critical research tasks, like lab work. Even a year's delay can put his research back five years, he said.

Knowledge lost in funding freeze

"It's really devastating," agreed Rita Hamad, the director of the Social Policies for Health Equity Research Center at Harvard, who had three multiyear grants totaling \$10 million canceled by the Trump administration. The grants funded research into the impact of school segregation on heart health, how pandemic-era policies in over 250 counties affected mental health, and the role of neighborhood factors in dementia.

At the School of Public Health, where Hamad is based, 190 grants have been terminated, affecting roughly 130 scientists.

"Just thinking about all the knowledge that's not going to be gained or that is going to be actively lost," Hamad said. She expects significant layoffs on her team if the funding freeze continues for a few more months. "It's all just a mixture of frustration and anger and sadness all the time, every day."

John Quackenbush, a professor of computational biology and bioinformatics at the School of Public Health, has spent the past few months enduring cuts on multiple fronts.

In April, a multimillion dollar grant was not renewed, jeopardizing a study into the role sex plays in disease. In May, he lost about \$1.2 million in federal funding for in the coming year due to the Harvard freeze. Four departmental grants worth \$24 million that funded training of doctoral students also were canceled as part of the fight with the Trump administration, Quackenbush said.

"I'm in a position where I have to really think about, 'Can I revive this research?'" he said. "Can I restart these programs even if Harvard and the Trump administration reached some kind of settlement? If they do reach a settlement, how quickly can the funding be turned back on? Can it be turned back on?"

The researchers all agreed that the funding cuts have little or nothing to do with the university's fight against antisemitism. Some, however, argue changes at Harvard were long overdue and pressure from the Trump administration was necessary.

Bertha Madras, a Harvard psychobiologist who lost funding to create a free, parent-focused training to prevent teen opioid overdose and drug use, said she's happy to see the culling of what she called "politically motivated social science studies."

White House pressure a good thing?

Madras said pressure from the White House has catalyzed much-needed reform at the university, where several programs of study have "really gone off the wall in terms of being shaped by orthodoxy that is not representative of the country as a whole."

But Madras, who served on the President's Commission on Opioids during Trump's first term, said holding scientists' research funding hostage as a bargaining chip doesn't make sense.

"I don't know if reform would have happened without the president of the United States pointing the bony finger at Harvard," she said. "But sacrificing science is problematic, and it's very worrisome because it is one of the major pillars of strength of the country."

Quackenbush and other Harvard researchers argue the cuts are part of a larger attack on science by the Trump administration that puts the country's reputation as the global research leader at risk. Support for students and post-doctoral fellows has been slashed, visas for foreign scholars threatened, and new guidelines and funding cuts at the NIH will make it much more difficult to get federal funding in the future, they said. It also will be difficult to replace federal funding with money from the private sector.

"We're all sort of moving toward this future in which this 80-year partnership between the government and the universities is going to be jeopardized," Quackenbush said. "We're going to face real challenges in continuing to lead the world in scientific excellence."

Here's what you need to know about ESPN's new streaming service and its deals with the NFL and WWE

By JOE REEDY AP Sports Writer

ESPN's much-discussed streaming service finally has its launch date.

The network announced Wednesday that its direct-to-consumer service and enhanced app will debut Aug. 21. The announcement coincided with Disney's quarterly earning report.

This week's expanded deals with the NFL and a new partnership with WWE provide ESPN more inventory and offerings, which it hopes will bolster the company in a landscape that is divided among cable, satellite and streaming.

Will the ESPN service result in more subscribers?

According to Nielsen, streaming usage surpassed broadcast and cable combined in U.S. television usage for the first time. Streaming was at 44.8% compared to linear's 44.2%. When Nielsen started keeping track in May 2021, linear was at 64% compared to streaming's 26%.

The ESPN DTC will start out with around 25 million subscribers as those currently getting ESPN+ will migrate to the new platform. Many of those though are cable and satellite subscribers who get the service through deals with their provider. ESPN is hoping that more cord cutters will pay up to \$29.99 per month since it will offer all of the ESPN networks — ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, SECN, ACCN, ESPNEWS, ESPN Deportes, ESPN on ABC, ESPN+, ESPN3, SECN+ and ACCNX — as well as being able to bundle NFL Network and NFL RedZone through a deal with NFL+ Premium.

Trying to determine how many of the DTC service subscribers are cord cutters will be more difficult though. Disney announced during its earnings call Wednesday that it will stop releasing ESPN streaming subscriber metrics beginning next quarter.

ESPN was in nearly 100 million households in 2013. Over the past 12 years due to cord cutting and streaming, that number has dropped to 60 million. Over the next two years, that is expected to decrease to fewer than 50 million.

What do the NFL and WWE deals mean for ESPN's market footprint?

Live sports remains valuable property, but the NFL is the beachfront house.

For taking over NFL Network, which had also been steadily losing subscribers, ESPN gets three additional NFL games along with another outlet to air Monday night games when there are more than one, as well as the ability for its app users to get specialty highlights of their favorite players or teams. There will also be ways to access stats, betting and fantasy sports info on the app while watching games.

The WWE premium live events (they're no longer called pay-per-views) also makes sense when ESPN takes over from Peacock next year. After all, the E in ESPN stands for entertainment. As Netflix chief content officer Bela Bajaria pointed out when it started carrying "Monday Night Raw" earlier this year, the WWE has a multigenerational and loyal fan base that will flock to whoever carries the events.

The WWE deal applies only to the U.S. though. Netflix has the rights for overseas.

Can all of this turn around ESPN's financial outlook?

It does carry some risks. ESPN had \$4.3 billion in revenue last quarter, an increase of 1% from last year, but the operating profit decreased 7% to \$1 billion due to increased rights fees.

It is paying the NFL an average of \$2.7 billion per year while the NBA 11-year deal that begins this upcoming season averages \$2.6 billion per year. The five-year WWE deal will average \$325 million per year.

This also comes at a time when the network opted out of its \$550 million contract with Major League Baseball beginning next year and appears to be out of the running for Formula One rights. ESPN pays \$75 million to \$90 million per year under its three-year deal, but Liberty Media, which owns F1, is seeking at least \$120 million for the next contract, which begins in 2026.

ESPN needs more than cable and satellite subscriber affiliate fees, which is also why it is launching a DTC product to gain more revenue. The past two years, it has been involved in prolonged negotiations with DirecTV and Spectrum before reaching deals.

How can viewers get the ESPN streaming service?

If cable and satellite subscribers already get ESPN+, they will automatically migrate to the new service. For cord cutters, there is an offer where they can get the ESPN unlimited plan with Disney+ and Hulu for \$29.99/month for the first 12 months.

The diplomatic efforts that paved the way for a possible Trump-Putin meeting on Ukraine

By KATIE MARIE DAVIES Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin says he hopes to meet U.S. President Donald Trump in latest bid by the White House to broker an end to the 3-year-old war in Ukraine.

Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov said Thursday a meeting could take place as early as next week, although he noted that such events take time to organize. No date is confirmed.

He also played down the possibility of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joining the summit.

No location has been determined, according to a White House official who was not authorized to talk publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The official said a Trump-Putin meeting would not happen if the Russian leader does not agree to meet with Zelenskyy.

A meeting between Putin and Trump would be the first U.S.-Russia summit since former President Joe Biden met with the Kremlin leader in 2021. There's no guarantee a Trump-Putin meeting would lead to the end of the fighting, since Moscow and Kyiv remain far apart on their conditions for peace.

Key events that shaped efforts to end the war since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022:

Feb. 28, 2022: Ukrainian and Russian delegations meet in neighboring Belarus for the first time since the invasion. Talks continue for the next two weeks, but no agreements emerge other than a decision to set up humanitarian corridors for civilians.

March 21, 2022: Zelenskyy calls for direct talks with Putin but is rebuffed by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. A day later, Zelenskyy says he is prepared to discuss a commitment for Ukraine to not to seek NATO membership in exchange for a ceasefire, the withdrawal of Russian troops and a guarantee of Ukraine's security.

March 29, 2022: Talks begin in Istanbul, with Moscow saying it's willing to "fundamentally cut back" military activity near Kyiv and the northern city of Chernihiv. Kyiv said it was open to discussing neutral status for Ukraine if its security is backed by other nations.

April 7, 2022: Lavrov rejects a Ukrainian peace proposal as "unacceptable." He says Kyiv has walked back on an agreement to exempt the Crimean Peninsula from wider Ukrainian security guarantees. Russia illegally annexed Crimea in 2014.

July 22, 2022: Russia and Ukraine, with mediation by Turkey and the U.N., agree on a deal to unblock supplies of grain stuck in Ukraine's Black Sea ports, ending a standoff that threatened global food security. The deal expires a year later.

Sept. 30, 2022: Russia illegally annexes the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, even though it doesn't fully control any of them. Ukraine responds by applying to join NATO and by enacting a decree that declares negotiations with Putin "impossible."

Dec. 7, 2024: U.S. President-elect Donald Trump meets Zelenskyy and other European leaders in Paris.

Feb. 12, 2025: Trump and Putin agree to begin negotiations on ending the Ukraine war in a phone call that ends a three-year U.S.-led effort to isolate Russia over Ukraine.

Feb. 18, 2025: Russian and U.S. officials, including Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, meet in Saudi Arabia and agree to work toward ending the war, as well as restoring bilateral ties. Ukrainian officials are not invited.

Feb. 28, 2025: Zelenskyy meets with Trump, Rubio and Vice President JD Vance in a contentious session in the Oval Office. A proposed minerals deal between the countries is left unsigned.

March 11, 2025: U.S. and Ukrainian officials meet in Saudi Arabia, with American officials putting forward

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a plan for a 30-day ceasefire. Kyiv agrees to the proposed truce.

March 13, 2025: Putin effectively rejects the ceasefire plan, stating certain issues must be resolved. He also meets with U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff in Moscow. Witkoff would travel to Russia twice more in April to meet Putin.

March 18, 2025: A proposal is put forward for a temporary halt on strikes on energy infrastructure. Both sides agree to the plan, but soon accuse each other of violations, and the measure later expires.

April 19, 2025: Putin announces a 30-hour ceasefire to mark the Easter holiday, although attacks continue across Ukraine.

April 28, 2025: The Kremlin declares a unilateral 72-hour ceasefire starting May 8 to mark Russia's Victory Day celebrating the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. Kyiv does not agree, preferring a 30-day truce proposed by U.S. officials. Both sides accuse each other of violating it.

May 11, 2025: Putin proposes restarting direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul "without preconditions" but does not agree to the 30-day ceasefire. Zelenskyy challenges Putin to meet in Turkey.

May 15, 2025: Russian and Ukrainian delegations meet for direct talks in Istanbul for the first time since early 2022. Subsequent meetings are held on June 2 and July 23, but aside from ongoing exchanges of prisoners of war and the bodies of fallen soldiers, no substantive progress is made on key issues.

July 14, 2025: Trump says he will implement "severe tariffs" on Russia and countries that continue to buy Russian oil unless Moscow reaches a peace deal with Ukraine within 50 days. Two weeks later, on July 28, he says that he will shorten that deadline to 10-12 days.

Aug. 6, 2025: Witkoff visits Moscow and meets with Putin two days before Trump's deadline. Later that day, a White House official speaking on condition of anonymity in order to discuss internal plans says Trump and Putin could soon meet in person. A day later, the Kremlin confirms the planned meeting but does not set a date.

RFK Jr.'s vow to overhaul vaccine injury program echoes grievances of anti-vaccine movement

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is vowing to "fix" the federal program for compensating Americans injured by vaccines, opening the door to sweeping changes for a system long targeted by anti-vaccine activists.

Health experts and lawyers say updates are needed to help clear a backlog of cases in the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, created by Congress in 1986 as a no-fault payment system for presumed vaccine injuries.

But they also worry Kennedy's changes will reflect his history as a leader in the anti-vaccine movement, which has alternately called for abolishing the program or expanding it to cover unproven injuries and illnesses that aren't connected to vaccines.

Kennedy and other critics believe the program is "too miserly in what it considers to be a vaccine injury," said Jason Schwartz, a public health expert at Yale University. "That's created great concern that he could expand what's included."

Anti-vaccine groups have long suggested a link between vaccines and autism, despite scientific consensus that childhood vaccines don't cause the condition. Adding autism to the list of injuries covered by the plan "would dramatically increase the number of compensable cases, potentially bankrupting it," Schwartz said.

Program is credited with saving the U.S. vaccine industry

Signed into law under President Ronald Reagan, the compensation program is designed to provide quick, efficient compensation to Americans who report known injuries associated with vaccines, such as rare allergic reactions. At the time of its creation, a number of vaccine-makers were exiting the business due to risks of class action lawsuits.

In a recent social media post, Kennedy called the program "broken" and accused federal lawyers and adjudicators who run it of "inefficiency, favoritism and outright corruption."

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Kennedy didn't specify the changes he's seeking. But some of the people he's enlisted to help have a history of bringing vaccine injury cases.

In June, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded a \$150,000 contract to an Arizona law firm for "expertise" in the program. The firm's Andrew Downing, an attorney specializing in vaccine injury cases, was listed in the HHS staff directory for a time.

"We just brought a guy in this week who is going to be revolutionizing the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program," Kennedy told Tucker Carlson shortly after the award.

Revamping the program would be the latest in a string of decisions that have upended U.S. vaccine policy, including this week's cancellation of research funding for vaccines using mRNA technology.

Downing and Kennedy have had roles in HPV vaccine lawsuits

Downing has had a leading role in lawsuits against Merck alleging injuries from its HPV vaccine, Gardasil, including a rare movement disorder.

In a podcast last year for people with the condition, Downing lamented that the injury compensation program "has taken a hard line" against such cases, leading lawyers to file injury lawsuits in civil court. Approximately 70% of the Gardasil cases against Merck started as claims filed by Downing in the federal injury program, according to court records.

A judge dismissed more than 120 of those cases, citing "a paucity of evidence" that Gardasil caused patients' problems.

A spokesman for Kennedy declined to comment on Downing's hiring.

Kennedy himself has been involved in the Gardasil litigation, as both an attorney and consultant.

Before joining the government, Kennedy received payments for referring potential Gardasil clients to Wisner Baum, one of the law firms suing Merck. Following questions about the agreement during his confirmation hearings, Kennedy agreed to give up his stake in the deal and transfer any future fees to "a nondependent, adult son," according to his financial disclosures.

One of Kennedy's sons is an attorney at Wisner Baum.

Experts see need for reform

Experts who study vaccine compensation say real changes are needed to modernize the 40-year-old program.

The cap on compensation remains \$250,000 for injury or death, the same as in 1986. Similarly, the program still has eight adjudicators, known as special masters, to review all cases before the government. On average, the process takes two to three years.

The fund has paid out \$5.4 billion, compensating about 40% of all people who filed claims.

The U.S. has an "ethical obligation" to promptly pay those harmed by government-recommended vaccines, says Dorit Reiss, a professor at the University of California Hastings College of the Law.

"Plus, I think it increases trust in the vaccination program if you have quick, generous compensation," Reiss said.

One possible change: Adding injuries

As health secretary, Kennedy has broad powers to reshape the program.

One approach could be adding new diseases and illnesses to the government table of payable injuries.

In the early 2000s, the program ruled against more than 5,000 claims from families who said vaccines led to their children's autism, citing hundreds of scientific studies discrediting the link.

Critics of Kennedy say he could claim that he has new evidence of harm — perhaps from a large autism study he's commissioned — and add the condition to the program.

In response, the federal government might have to increase taxes on vaccines to replenish the compensation fund, which would make the shots more expensive and less accessible.

"Then you will start to watch the vaccine program infrastructure in this country disintegrate until someone steps in," Dr. Paul Offit, a vaccine researcher at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia who has clashed with Kennedy for years.

A recent Senate hearing titled "Voice of the Vaccine Injured" appeared to make the case for expanding the program. Witnesses included two representatives from Children's Health Defense, the nonprofit group

that Kennedy previously chaired and has repeatedly sued the government over vaccines.

The group's chief science officer, Brian Hooker, told lawmakers he tried unsuccessfully for 16 years trying to get compensation for his son's autism, which he attributes to the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine.

Another possible change: Removing vaccines

Another approach would involve removing certain vaccines from the program, making it easier to bring lawsuits against vaccine-makers. Under current law, people claiming injuries from vaccines covered by the program must first pursue a compensation claim before they can sue.

In cases where the science doesn't support a connection to vaccines, lawyers might be more successful before a jury.

"Jury trials take advantage of the fact that most jurors don't know anything about science or medicine," Offit said. "They are not going to be as easily moved by the data."

Still, attorneys who bring cases before the compensation program say the process has become more burdensome and adversarial over the years.

Even small changes could improve things. For instance, the statute of limitations for claims could be extended beyond the current three years, which lawyers say cuts off many potential clients.

"I'm hoping there will be changes put in place that make the program easier for petitioners to navigate" said Leah Durant, a vaccine injury attorney.

Trump energizes conservative Christians with new religious policies

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

In his first half-year in office — amid his tariff campaign, government-slashing moves and immigration crackdown — President Donald Trump has also repeatedly delivered for conservative Christians, who form the bedrock of his Republican support.

While he has made overtures to Jewish, Muslim and other religious groups, his Christian supporters have been among his most high-profile surrogates and appointees.

The Trump administration has green-lit political endorsements from the pulpit and encouraged religion in the federal workplace. Trump has established faith-focused entities with numerous influential Christian appointees. He's energized supporters with assaults on cultural and academic targets long seen as liberal bastions. His administration and his Supreme Court appointees have expanded areas for religious exemptions and expression in the public square.

"We're bringing back religion in our country," Trump contended at a Rose Garden event on the National Day of Prayer in May.

His faith adviser, pastor Paula White-Cain, proclaimed that in his administration, faith "has been brought back to where it always belongs, and that is center."

Critics say he's eroding the separation of church and state.

"The ones celebrating this are the ones leaning toward this Christian nationalist bent, this ideology that Christians should have dominion over the United States government," said the Rev. Shannon Fleck, executive director of Faithful America, a progressive Christian group.

"A president with a true Christian agenda would be most concerned with uplifting those in our country who have been cast aside," she said. "The most vulnerable among us are not billionaires. Those most vulnerable among us are not these manipulators of Christianity that are seeking nothing but power."

Here are 10 ways Trump has repaid his supporters, particularly conservative evangelicals and Catholics:

Crackdowns on transgender identity and treatment

Trump has cracked down on transgender identity and medical treatment, long targets of religious conservatives.

He signed an executive order on his first day in office recognizing only male and female as biologically determined sexes. Another order aimed to eliminate federal support for gender-affirming care for young people, which several medical institutions have discontinued.

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Still another order aimed to ban transgender athletes from girls' and women's sports. The University of Pennsylvania, under a federal civil rights investigation, modified school records previously set by transgender swimmer Lia Thomas and said it would apologize to female athletes "disadvantaged" by her participation.

Pastors, politics and the IRS

The IRS declared on July 7 that pastors can endorse political candidates from the pulpit without risking their churches' tax-exempt status. The move effectively calls for a carve-out for religious organizations from the IRS rule known as the Johnson Amendment, enacted in 1954 and named after then-Sen. Lyndon Johnson.

That rule said churches and other nonprofits could lose their tax-exempt status if they participate in any political campaign for or against any candidate. The rule was rarely enforced, though some conservative religious leaders spent years vocally claiming it was violating their freedom of religion and speech. Trump had vowed in 2017 to "destroy" the Johnson Amendment.

Targeting Planned Parenthood

Trump signed budget legislation aimed at cutting Medicaid payments to Planned Parenthood, the nation's biggest abortion provider and a longtime target of Christian conservative groups.

U.S. law already bars federal funding for abortion, but the latest cuts target other services offered by the organization, such as contraception and cancer screenings.

Trump in January pardoned anti-abortion activists who had been convicted of blockading abortion clinic entrances.

Evangelist-led faith office

Trump created a White House faith office led by White-Cain, a longtime pastor and evangelist in the independent charismatic world. While past presidents have had similar White House outreach to faith-based communities, this appointment puts one of Trump's earliest high-profile Christian supporters in a strategic position. White-Cain held a similar post in the first Trump administration.

Task force on anti-Christian bias

Trump created a Task Force to Eradicate Anti-Christian Bias, chaired by Attorney General Pam Bondi and composed of high-ranking government representatives. Its two-year mandate is to "identify any unlawful anti-Christian" actions allegedly taken by the previous administration of President Joe Biden, a Democrat, and to recommend changes. The order cites grievances voiced by conservative Christian leaders in recent years, though skeptics questioned how those grievances were portrayed and whether the nation's most dominant religious demographic needed special protections.

Religious Liberty Commission

Trump created a Religious Liberty Commission. It includes several conservative Christian clerics and commentators, some of whom have supported Trump politically. Its chair, Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, supports prayer and Ten Commandments postings in public schools.

The commission's announcement came at a White House prayer event at which Trump said of the concept of church-state separation, "Let's forget about that for one time."

Evangelical ambassador to Israel

Trump appointed former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Southern Baptist minister and prominent religious conservative, as ambassador to Israel.

Huckabee reflects the unwavering support for Israel among many evangelicals, who see it as favored by God and largely dismiss criticisms of Israel's war with Hamas and aid restrictions in Gaza.

Huckabee was confirmed by the Senate despite concerns he previously supported Israel's right to annex the occupied West Bank. He pledged to "carry out the president's priorities, not mine."

Religion in the federal workplace

The Office of Personnel Management said in a July 28 memo that federal employees may promote and talk about their religion with fellow employees on the job, so long as it's not "harassing in nature."

They can display religious items at work and encourage co-workers "to participate in religious expressions of faith, such as prayer," the memo said. Office Director Scott Kuper said federal workers "should never have to choose between their faith and their career."

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Critics said this erodes church-state separation, potentially creating a hostile workplace environment. Rachel Laser, president of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said "this memo encourages federal workers to abuse the power of their positions by imposing their religious beliefs on others."

Supreme Court impact

Trump hasn't made Supreme Court appointments yet this term. But his three first-term picks — Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett — continue to deliver for the Christian conservatives and their allies from other faiths who cheered their appointments.

The high court ruled in June that Maryland parents with religious objections can pull their children from public school lessons using LGBTQ+ storybooks; that Tennessee can ban gender-affirming care for transgender minors; and that states can block Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid money.

All three were decided by the same 6-3 margin, with Trump's appointees in the court's conservative supermajority.

Fighting a culture war

Trump launched a wide-ranging culture war against universities, museums, public broadcasters and other institutions.

These targets have long been accused of liberal bias by religious and other conservatives, even though specific grievances and circumstances varied.

Trump has cut funding, forced out officials or otherwise demanded changes at the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, the Kennedy Center and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He signed a congressional action slashing funding for public broadcasting.

The Trump administration also cut research funding at several elite U.S. colleges, some of which have offered financial payments and other concessions to his political agenda in an effort to regain funding.

It has also worked to suppress diversity, equity and inclusion programs at government agencies and private corporations.

Americans get more than half their calories from ultra-processed foods, CDC report says

By JONEL ALECCIA AP Health Writer

Most Americans get more than half their calories from ultra-processed foods, those super-tasty, energy-dense foods typically full of sugar, salt and unhealthy fats, according to a new federal report.

Nutrition research has shown for years that ultra-processed foods make up a big chunk of the U.S. diet, especially for kids and teens.

For the first time, however, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed those high levels of consumption, using dietary data collected from August 2021 to August 2023.

The report comes amid growing scrutiny of such foods by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who blames them for causing chronic disease.

"We are poisoning ourselves and it's coming principally from these ultra-processed foods," Kennedy told Fox News earlier this year.

Overall, about 55% of total calories consumed by Americans age 1 and older came from ultra-processed foods during that period, according to the report. For adults, ultra-processed foods made up about 53% of total calories consumed, but for kids through age 18, it was nearly 62%.

The top sources included burgers and sandwiches, sweet baked goods, savory snacks, pizza and sweetened drinks.

Young children consumed fewer calories from ultra-processed foods than older kids, the report found. Adults 60 and older consumed fewer calories from those sources than younger adults. Low-income adults consumed more ultra-processed foods than those with higher incomes.

The results were not surprising, said co-author Anne Williams, a CDC nutrition expert.

What was surprising was that consumption of ultra-processed foods appeared to dip slightly over the past decade. Among adults, total calories from those sources fell from about 56% in 2013-2014 and from

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nearly 66% for kids in 2017-2018.

Williams said she couldn't speculate about the reason for the decline or whether consumption of less processed foods increased.

But Andrea Deierlein, a nutrition expert at New York University who was not involved in the research, suggested that there may be greater awareness of the potential harms of ultra-processed foods.

"People are trying, at least in some populations, to decrease their intakes of these foods," she said.

Concern over ultra-processed foods' health effects has been growing for years, but finding solutions has been difficult. Many studies have linked them to obesity, diabetes and heart disease, but they haven't been able to prove that the foods directly cause those chronic health problems.

One small but influential study found that even when diets were matched for calories, sugar, fat, fiber and micronutrients, people consumed more calories and gained more weight when they ate ultra-processed foods than when they ate minimally processed foods.

Research published this week in the journal *Nature* found that participants in a clinical trial lost twice as much weight when they ate minimally processed foods — such as pasta, chicken, fruits and vegetables — than ultra-processed foods, even those matched for nutrition components and considered healthy, such as ready-to-heat frozen meals, protein bars and shakes.

Part of the problem is simply defining ultra-processed foods.

The new CDC report used the most common definition based on the four-tier Nova system developed by Brazilian researchers that classifies foods according to the amount of processing they undergo. Such foods tend to be "hyperpalatable, energy-dense, low in dietary fiber and contain little or no whole foods, while having high amounts of salt, sweeteners and unhealthy fats," the CDC report said.

U.S. health officials recently said there are concerns over whether current definitions "accurately capture" the range of foods that may affect health. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Agriculture Department recently issued a request for information to develop a new, uniform definition of ultra-processed foods for products in the U.S. food supply.

In the meantime, Americans should try to reduce ultra-processed foods in their daily diets, Deierlein said. For instance, instead of instant oatmeal that may contain added sugar, sodium, artificial colors and preservatives, use plain oats sweetened with honey or maple syrup. Read food packages and nutrition information, she suggested.

"I do think that there are less-processed options available for many foods," she said.

Today in History: August 8, devastating Maui wildfires

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Friday, Aug. 8, the 220th day of 2025. There are 145 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug. 8, 2023, a series of wind-driven wildfires broke out on the Hawaiian island of Maui, destroying the town of Lahaina and killing more than 100 people.

Also on this date:

In 1814, during the War of 1812, peace talks between the United States and Britain began in Ghent, Belgium.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte set sail for St. Helena to spend the remainder of his days in exile.

In 1876, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric pen—the forerunner of the mimeograph machine.

In 1908, Wilbur Wright makes the Wright Brothers' first public flying demonstration, at Le Mans race-course in France.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft signed a measure raising the number of U.S. representatives from 391 to 433, effective with the next Congress, with a proviso to add two more when New Mexico and Arizona became states.

In 1963, Britain's "Great Train Robbery" took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes.

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In 1969, photographer Iain Macmillan took the iconic photo of The Beatles that would appear on the cover of their album "Abbey Road."

In 1974, President Richard Nixon, facing damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal, announced he would resign the following day.

In 1988, Chicago's Wrigley Field hosted its first-ever night baseball game; the contest between the Chicago Cubs and Philadelphia Phillies would be rained out in the fourth inning.

In 2000, the wreckage of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, which sank in 1864 after attacking the Union ship Housatonic, was recovered off the South Carolina coast and returned to port.

In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor was sworn in as the U.S. Supreme Court's first Hispanic and third female justice.

In 2022, FBI agents executed a search warrant for former President Donald Trump's residence at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida; over 13,000 government documents, including 103 classified documents, were seized.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Nita Talbot is 95. Actor Dustin Hoffman is 88. Actor Connie Stevens is 87. Actor Larry Wilcox is 78. Actor Keith Carradine is 76. Movie director Martin Brest is 74. Radio-TV personality Robin Quivers is 73. Percussionist Anton Fig is 72. Actor Donny Most is 72. Rock musician Dennis Drew (10,000 Maniacs) is 68. TV personality Deborah Norville is 67. Rock musician The Edge (U2) is 64. Rock musician Rikki Rockett (Poison) is 64. Rapper Kool Moe Dee is 63. Rock singer Scott Stapp is 52. Country singer Mark Wills is 52. Actor Kohl Sudduth is 51. Rock musician Tom Linton (Jimmy Eat World) is 50. Singer JC Chasez ('N Sync) is 49. Actor Tawny Cypress is 49. R&B singer Drew Lachey (lah-SHAY') (98 Degrees) is 49. R&B singer Marsha Ambrosius is 48. Actor Lindsay Sloane is 48. Actor Countess Vaughn is 47. Actor Michael Urie is 45. Tennis player Roger Federer is 44. Actor Meagan Good is 44. Britain's Princess Beatrice of York is 37. Actor Ken Baumann is 36. Pop singer Shawn Mendes is 27.